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Vol.

Genealogy Department

Seat No. 57

Author William Francis Esslinger

Title Esslinger family

Two Hundred Years

OF THE

Esslinger Family

W. F. Esslinger

FAMILY HISTORIAN

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After the decease of W. F. Esslinger, Mrs. Bettie Esslinger Wharton of Bakersfield, California, sent in this information:

Jane Esslinger, daughter of Andrew and Elizabeth Wright Esslinger, was not named in the list of their children given on page 41. Jane married "Tod" Hughes, possibly in Tennessee before the family moved to Alabama. They had several children. One daughter, Mary Esslinger, married Wesley Penn, and they lived near Guntersville.

Hughey Esslinger, son of Andrew J. and Francis E. Kirksey (See page 100), married Emma McKelvey, (not McElroy as on page 104). They lived in Texas, and had two girls, Nannie and Eliza. Nannie bore three boys, Marven, Hubert and Huston, by her first husband, Mr. Vann, and two girls and one by by her second husband, Mr. Tom Maddox. The girls were killed by a cyclone in 1918. Eliza married Mr. Hunt, and her daughter, Bertie May (See bottom of page 104) married Sam Grooms. They have two children, Sam Jr. and Bettie Jo.

Lizzie and Mary Esslinger, (See the bottom of page 101), were the daughters of Andrew J. Esslinger and Frances E. Kirksey. Mary married W. Gordon Ellett, (See page 102). Their children were Irene, Lola, Carl, Joseph, and two sets of twins, Harry and Harvey, and Charlie and Grace.

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ROBERT ESSLINGER

In the family line of Robert Esslinger, (See page 99); his first wife, Nancy Harless, bore him threee children not mentioned in the book, William and Martha, who both died single, and Dave. Dave Esslinger married Caroline Lusk. They had two girls, Nannie, who married Mr. Hanna, and Laura, who married Mr. Burkes. Both are now living in Byhalia, Mississippi, and are blessed with many children and grandchildren.

George W. Esslinger's first wife, Mary Materson, (not "Mastastone" as on page 104), bore him three boys, Charlie Frank, George R., and Lonza. Lonza died at 20. Charlie married Laura McAdams, and lived in Childress, Texas, until his death in 1936. They had no children. George married Miss Mattie Polk Webster, as stated on page 104, and left a large family. (See pages 102 and 103).

George W. Esslinger's second wife was Lucy McMullin, (not "Mullins" as on page 104). Lucy McMullin

Recd Sept 27-1978

Esslinger had only one daughter, Bettie, who bore her first husband, Frank Cobb, two daughters, Thelma and Anita. Thelma married Robert Rutledge and they have two boys, Robert Allen, aged 13, and Donald, aged 10. Anita first married Thurman Wharton and has two boys, Lee Roy, aged 13, and Dennis, aged 11. Later she married Ardene Long.

Bettie Esslinger's first husband, Frank Cobb, died April 4th, 1924, and she married Allen Wharton in 1931. They have one daughter, Fanchion Jeannette, who is now attending Bakersfield College.

Raleigh, son of Robert Esslinger and Nancy C. Jenkins had a younger daughter not mentioned on page 103. She was Bessie Esslinger until she married Oliver Webster. She and Mr. Webster had two children.

Jack (Jenk) Esslinger, (See page 104) is the same person as Jenkins Esslinger. His daughter is Belle, (not Bettie E. as on page 104) and her husband is Erskine Hunt. His daughter Ida, married Horace Christian instead of Frank Cobb, (according to Mrs. Wharton) and had four children, two boys and two girls. Peevey, the oldest son of Martha and Jenkins Esslinger, married Parthena Craft. Charlie, the youngest, married Nell Webster. They have no children. All of Jenk Esslinger's descendants live near New Hope, Alabama.

Near the bottom of Page 103, "Oleine", wife of A. Johnson Esslinger, should have been "Lillian." Just above that, Albert Esslinger married Annie Baker, not Betty Webster, and Bessie (Elizabeth Esslinger) married Oliver Webster.

This information came through Mrs. Edgar Esslinger: Edgar, Jr., and Joyce Pedigo Esslinger have no children. Mary Jane Troupe now has another daughter, Jane Elizabeth Troupe. (See Page 90.)

When cleaning out Dad's office I found, with an affectionate letter from his Aunt Belle, these lines of his Mother's paternal and maternal ancestry, which were procured for the D.A.R.

PATERNAL ANCESTRY

Jean Victor Jules Fennelle, Count de Valois, born at Lyons in France in 1650, was a devoted follower of Peter Waldo, a religious reformer of that age, whose principal scene of action was in the mountain districts between France and Switzerland.

Being severely persecuted by Catholic fanatics of that day Fennelle was forced to seek refuge across the Atlan-

tic. He landed in New York, and after settling himself into a thriving business, he married Miss Elizabeth Hart. Jean, eldest son of the aforesaid Jean Victor Jules, was born 1678, and married Miss Ann Watkins, daughter of a noted surgeon of that period. They emigrated to Virginia and dropped the final "e" from the name "Fennelle."

James, eldest son of Jean (or John), was born 1715, and later married Mary Merideth, daughter of a very famous soldier of the Revolution. John Fennell, son of James, was born in 1740 and married Miss Martha Pete. They lived in Virginia. James Clark Fennell, son of John Fennell, was born in 1780, and married Elizabeth Hobbs, descendant of the celebrated barrister and literary genius.

James Watkins Fennell, son of James Clark Fennell, and Elizabeth Hobbs was born in 1810, and was widely known as a skillful surgeon and physician. His mother removed from Virginia when he was a young man, and he afterwards married Miss Matilda Allison.

Katherine M. Fennell, daughter of the above Dr. James Watkins Fennell, was born in Alabama and married Andrew J. Esslinger, father of William Francis Esslinger.

MATERNAL ANCESTRY

James Stuart, Lord of E. & S. was born in 1846. His daughter, Lady Maude, married William, Lord Beresford, a celebrated soldier in the British army, about the year 1700. Lady Isabella, daughter of Lord Beresford, married Major James Anderson of the Scottish Highlanders, troops that fought at Waterloo.

Charity, daughter of James Anderson, married William Moore, related in the second remove to Sir John Moore, killed at the battle of Corunna in Spain.

Isabella, daughter of William Moore, married John Allison, gentleman, and resident of Londerry, England. Isabella and John Allison became involved in political difficulties in connection with the Catholic question in Ireland, they being staunch Protestants, and emigrated to America about the year 1820.

Matilda, daughter of John and Isabella Anderson, married Mr. James Watkins Fennell, in the state of Alabama. Katherine, daughter of Dr. James Watkins Fennell, married Andrew J. Esslinger of Alabama, and was the mother of William Francis Esslinger, a resident of Huntsville, Alabama.

Note: See back cover for other corrections.

Please glue to first
blank sheet in
"Two Hundred Years
of
the Esslinger Family"

Ida Esslinger
(daughter of W. F.)

Copyright, 1950, by W. F. Esslinger,
Huntsville, Alabama

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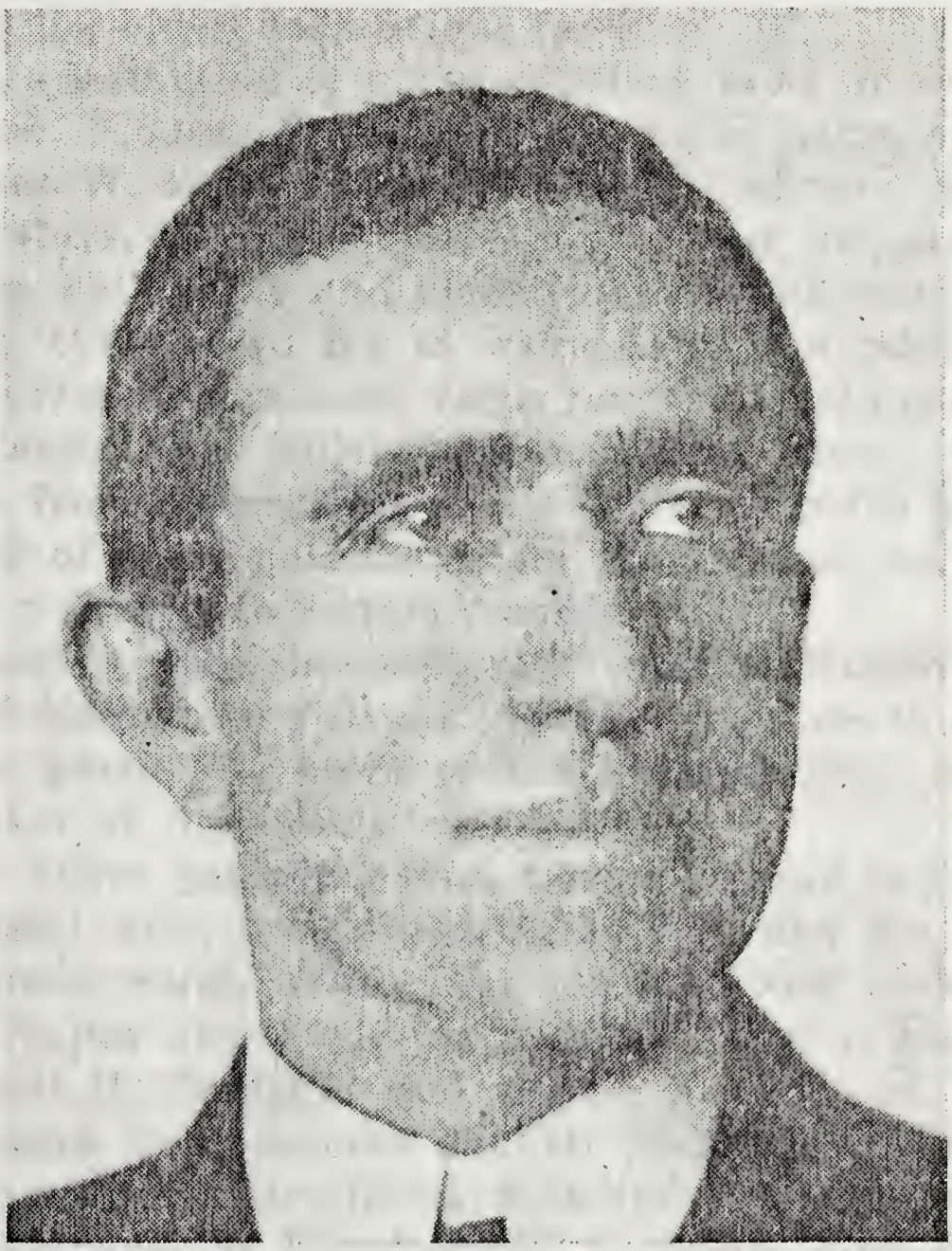

W. F. ESSLINGER

At age of 45

THE ESSLINGER FAMILY

And Related Pioneers of Madison County, Alabama.

By W. F. ESSLINGER

After the death within a year of my three uncles, my seniors, William Wright Esslinger, Thomas Randall Esslinger and Jason Campbell Esslinger, the writer became the oldest man of our family.

At a gathering of many relatives, most of whom called me "Cousin Frank", at the farm home of cousins Horace W. and Hannah Weatherly Esslinger, in Weatherly Cove, during a discussion of our ancestors, their origin, nationality and industrious advancement by hard work, they asked me to write down the information I had given as to names, facts, names of nationalities and the lands from which such ancestors came; many of them from observation of the writer, legends and statements of elder parents before they passed on, together with reference to certain records.

Further, they insisted, my being in Huntsville, centrally located for fifty-six years, enabled me to meet and know personally more of the kinfolks than any other member of the family.

At above gathering with Cousin Horace and Hannah, his good wife, in addition to my wife and me, were his daughter Sarah Walls, her husband and children, his son Walter and Katie his wife and family, his Brother Fennell H. Esslinger and Beuna, his wife of Florence, Alabama, their nephew Pickett Esslinger, of New Market, his sister, Mary Richardson and William Richardson, her husband, of Birmingham, a cousin, Miss Essie Esslinger, of Huntsville, and a brother, Lawrence J. Esslinger and Delpha Esslinger, his wife and his widowed daughter, Helen, from Seattle, State of Washington.

So, I beg you to pardon my aspiring to be Family Historian of the Esslinger Family and relations.

I appreciate my people. I love my kinfolks.

I am justly proud of the sterling worth of all its men and women and the valuable part they have taken in the development of this our beloved, beautiful country.

Through six wars our people have pressed forward. In the years most terrible and the reconstruction following, they, with one accord, have done all they could to bring out the best in the land and restore prosperity.

First, as farmers our family have toiled with their hands, from small beginnings as young couples setting up for themselves, as industrious renters, to owners of nice farms and better homes, while bringing up in most cases large families of strong boys and girls.

Others of the family have been mechanical and acquired much skill in that line, even to tempering steel. Other men of the family added the art of carpentry to their farming, so they often built their own houses, barns, sheds and other buildings.

My memory is clear as to the wonderful kit of tools possessed by Grandfather, William Wright Esslinger, when I was a boy, among the tools planes for matching flooring tongue and groove, hand augers, jack planes, smoothing planes, adz, and numerous tools, which are seldom seen now.

At his home also, one saw the development, the evolution from primitive log house to the new house. The Old Kitchen and the new. The old barn and the new. The old smoke house and the new, the old well (in the Orchard) and the new. This being the rule in the part of the county in which he lived on the waters of Flint River, in the tall timbers.

Later, members of the family became regular carpenters, and others became manufacturers securing regular employment from various factories as they located in the county, to be regularly advanced to places of importance and supervision by the various companies.

After one hundred and fifty years of successful farming, we still have those mentioned herein later, giving their time and attention, labor and genius to advanced farming.

It has been a great pleasure to this historian to know many of our name personally and feel an interest in them and their own families.

Of later years, the ambition of the family manifests itself in the effort to obtain a better and higher education for the youthful members, few being satisfied with anything short of a degree or two in College. (See our Collge President.)

A number of our people have become teachers. The writer taught five or six terms of school, all being in Madison County, excepting the last taught near Caldwell, Texas, 1891-1892, winter session.

Possibly, in furnishing some good teachers, which we have given the country, we have lost the service and advice of the same number of good farmers and mechanics.

A few of our people have gone into the professions, as appears later herein. Besides the teachers mentioned, there are a few doctors, nurses, dietitians and lawyers.

By much hard work, unity of purpose and action in the various families, supported in all things and encouraged by the fine women, wives of these industrious ancestors, much advancement has resulted from the original pioneers. We still advance. Magnificent women they have always been and still are as chosen by our men; wives whose devotion, unselfish industry and tireless help have been the greatest factors in the advance of their husbands and children, forward, always forward!!

Here, also may I speak a few words of appreciation and praise for those wives and mothers. Day after day, in sickness and in health, they have worked alongside of their husbands and created the home-life from which all these fine sons and daughters came. They were real homes from which they sent out real men and women of courage and industry to carry on.

Edwin Arnold in his Boston Dialogue says this to the Boston Girl:

"She-mercy everywhere, she-pitying
In helpless season!
You Boston girls seem up to everything;
Tell me the reason!"

"Why certainly," she smiled, "don't poets know
Better than others?
God can't be always everywhere and, so,
Invented Mothers."

At our home we all address my wife as Mother. Last week I walked in home where my two daughters were in sight and so of course I said, "Where's Mother?" This question we hear not only in the homes, on the farm, but everywhere there is a home, a mother, this is the predominant question: "Where's Mother?" Some unknown author has seen the frequency of this question in writing and has heard it from all ages and all classes and all parts of the family: "Where's Mother?" She he has written the sweet lines quoted below:

Bursting in from school or play,
This is what the children say:
Trooping, crowding, big and small,
On the threshold, in the hall—
Joining in the constant cry,
Ever as the days go by,
"Where's mother?"

Burdened with a lonely task,
One day we may vainly ask
For the comfort of her face,
For the rest of her embrace;
Let us love her while we may,
Well for us that we can say,
"Where's Mother?"

Mother with untiring hands
At the post of duty stands,
Patient, seeking not her own,
Anxious for the good alone
Of the children as they cry,
Ever as the days go by,
"Where's mother?"

The many duties of the wife and Mother on the farm and in the urban home are briefly enumerated in the poem, "One Day" by Ethel R. Fuller:

"I have spread wet linen
On lavender bushes,
I have swept rose petals
From a garden walk.
I have labeled jars of raspberry jam,
I have baked a sunshine cake;
I have embroidered a yellow duck
On a small blue frock.
I have polished andirons,
Dusted the highboy,
Cut sweetpeas for a black bowl,
Wound the tall clock,
Pleated a lace ruffle . . .
To-day
I have lived a poem."

The beauty of Mother's ministering hands has been beautifully expressed by Ellen Gates:

"Such beautiful, beautiful hands!
They're neither white nor small;
And you, I know would scarcely think
That they were fair at all.
I've looked on hands whose form and hue
A sculptor's dream might be,
Yet are those wrinkled aged hands
Most beautiful to me."

Another poet, S. Oma Barker, refers to Mother's hands thus:

"Her hands are hard from laboring,
Her face is brown from sun,
But oh, her eyes are deep with dreams
Of days and duties done!"

The poet Bennett adds a word showing the ambition of the housekeeper:

"Within her cottage one could see
Each room had known her tyranny.
She cleaned and dusted till she died—
Her aspiration satisfied."

Frances Dana Gage has in a poem shown some of the complaints and shortcomings of her husband, felt by a diligent wife:

"And then will come some hasty words
Right out before I'm thinking,
They say that hasty words from wives
Set sober men to drinking.

Now is not that a great idea,
That men should take to sinning,
Because a weary, half-sick wife
Can't always smile so winning?

When I was young I used to earn
My living without trouble,
Had clothes and pocket-money, too,
And hours of leisure double.

I never dreamed of such a fare,
When I, a lass, was courted—
Wife, mother, nurse, seamstress, cook, housekeeper, chambermaid, laundress, dairywoman, and scrub generally, doing the work of six,
For the sake of being supported."

The life of service rendered to the family by the mothers and grandmothers and their willingness and happiness in each deed, is shown by the little poem of the sweet writer, Eugene Field, in:

GRANDMA'S PRAYER

"I pray that risen from the dead,
I may in glory stand—
A crown, perhaps, upon my head,
But a needle in my hand.

I've never learned to sing or play,
So let no harp be mine!
From birth unto my dying day,
Plain sewing's been my line.

Therefore, accustomed to the end
To plying useful stitches,
I'll be content if asked to mend
The little angels 'breeches."

The calling of farming, so important to this family of Esslingers and their in-laws, has been a matter of discussion from ancient times down to the present. Different writers have had their opinions given to the world, of various kinds. It was Benjamin Franklin who said:

"He that by the plow would thrive,
Himself must either hold or drive."

Are we to wonder if the wise Benjamin Franklin ever anticipated the driving necessary to be done by the modern farmer? Would he peep into the future and imagine a man driving one of the modern tractors, or the combine, or the combined raker, tedder and hay-baler, so often seen upon the modern farm?

Some unknown writer speaking of the arduous duties of the farm and the industrious farm folk, has summed it up as follows:

"Some people tell us there ain't no hell,
But they never farmed, so how can they tell?"

Let us now hear what the great statesman Daniel Webster had to say about cultivation and farmers:

> "Let us never forget that the cultivation of the earth is the most important labor of man. When tillage begins, other arts follow. The farmers therefore, are the founders of civilization."

The old Greek philosopher, Stobaeous, seems to have been disgusted with his experience in farming for he said:

> "Farming is a most senseless pursuit, a mere laboring in a circle. You sow that you may reap and then you reap that you may sow. Nothing ever comes of it."

Is it possible this ancient writer had been raising cotton? But hear the statesman, Thomas Jefferson:

> "Those who labor in the earth, are the chosen people of God, if He ever had a chosen people, whose breasts He has made His peculiar deposit for substantial and genuine virtue."

The responsibility of the farmer to his family and in many cases, their appreciation, has often been the song of poets and the sweetest memories held and published by their own wives and children. Like this little poem:

* * * * *

"I sing a little song to Dad
Throughout his life he spends the days
In earning cash to pay for hose
And shoes and suits and rent; he pays
And pays and pays, yet seldom shows
Impatience as his burden grows;
He keeps us housed and fed and clad,
In summer's heat, in winter's snows,
I sing a little song to Dad!

He understands our little ways
He sympathizes with our woes,
Our schemes he aids, our games he plays
And deep within his heart there glows
A love he doesn't much disclose,
But which outlasts good times and bad
Withstanding all fate's stoutest blows;
I sing a little song to Dad!

ENVOY

It's seldom anyone bestows
The praise that Father should have had,
But—here's the debt that one man owes,
I sing a little song to Dad;"

—Berton Braley.

EARLIEST HISTORY OF ESSLINGERS (ESLINGERS) IN AMERICA

In endeavoring to locate the very early ancestors of the Esslingers who finally settled in eastern Tennessee and northern Alabama, we are naturally most anxious to learn of any very early settlers by that name in this country who can properly be regarded as our early ancestors. Our search has ascertained the following information, which we believe locates the earliest ancestry for these Esslingers.

On September 19, 1749, the good ship "Patience" an English ship whose master was Captain Hugh Steel landed in Philadelphia. In the Captain's list of the passengers on this ship is the name of Christian Eslinger and he is listed as having come from "Wirtemberg."

On August 11, 1750, the good ship "Patience" under Captain Hugh Steel landed again at Philadelphia and on the ship's list for this landing appears the entry of the name of Hans Jerg (John George) Eslinger, also listed as having come from "Wirtemberg."

(Photostat of the list containing the name of Christian Esslinger is found on page 456 of Volume II of "Pennsylvania German Pioneers" by Strassburger and Hinke. A photostat of the list containing the name of Hans Jerg (John George) Eslinger is found on page 488 of the same publication.)

These two men were of German stock from the Palatinate and, of course, came over a number of years prior to the Revolutionary War. It is thus established that these two men were not Hessians. Furthermore, the name of Esslinger does not appear at all among the names of the Hessian Mercenaries who settled in this country. Further the name of Esslinger does not appear in further records that we can locate of settlers between the dates of 1749 and 1750 and 1800, at approximately which date the factual history of the Esslingers begins.

In examining the records of land ownership, wills, etc., we find the name of John George Esslinger and John Esslinger occurring more or less frequently as grantees

of tracts of land in southeastern Pennsylvania in approximately the years from 1772 to 1816. Our conclusion from this is that Hans Jerg (John George) Esslinger settled in southeastern Pennsylvania and that these grantees were his children or his grandchildren. Furthermore, there are at present families by the name of Esslinger who make their home in this section of Pennsylvania.

On looking for records of the activities of Christian Eslinger who landed at Philadelphia in 1749, we find no further entries whatever in the Pennsylvania records, nor have we been able to find any in certain county records of the State of Virginia, which counties have contained a number of residents of German ancestry. But we do find the name of Christian among the children of an Andrew Eslinger who died in Tennessee in 1824 and the name also occurs among other Esslingers. We, therefore, feel justified in drawing the conclusion that Christian Esslinger did not tarry long in Pennsylvania but probably made his way down through Virginia and either he or his descendants gradually worked their way into the eastern portion of Tennessee near the headwaters of the Tennessee River. There we find Andrew Eslinger (First) and we believe him to be the son or possibly the grandson of Christian Eslinger who landed in Philadelphia from the Province of Wirtemberg in Germany on September 19, 1749.—Above contributed by Russell J. Esslinger of Reading, Pennsylvania.

Whatever may have been the occupation and moves of Christian Esslinger, everything indicates that he went south from Pennsylvania and became a citizen of Virginia. Whether he served in the War of 1776 or not, we have failed to ascertain from the records, and admit that our time has been rather limited for an extensive search of the records in the States of Virginia and Tennessee.

We do know however, that several settlements were made in Virginia, composed of steady, worthy German farmers and artisans. It is probable that Andrew the First, was a son of said Christian Eslinger and somewhere

in the valleys of Virginia and East Tennessee met and married Christiana, who was his wife at the time of his death, and was the mother of his ten children, named in his will hereafter set out. Andrew the First, from every indication was a prosperous and industrious pioneer. As his boys and girls grew, they were taught to do the hard work necessary about a farm that it might prosper. No doubt his wife Christiania, came from an industrious and hard-working German family, and made Andrew a model wife, and mother for his children.

Again we call your attention to the fact that the given name "Christian" appears in his family of sons, and that the name "Andrew" also appears there, clinching and confirming our surmise and conclusion that his son was Andrew the Second, the husband of Elizabeth Wright Esslinger, our maternal great-grandparent.

The collection of records of Jefferson County, Tennessee, copied under the jurisdiction of the WPA and recorded in the State Library in the Capitol Building of Tennessee in Nashville, shows among others the following records from the County records in Dandridge, the County-seat of Jefferson County:

Will of Andrew Esslinger in Will Book No. 3, Pages 40 and 531, date 1826. For 5th Generation citations, see Alabama Records (Madison County) Volume V, Page 38; and Certified papers filed also at a recent date. See records Vol. 55, page 74; Vol. 38, pages 28, 30, 42, 50, 52, and 95.

Robert Wright was married to Kesiah Bibb of Amherst County, Virginia, in the year 1784; but, his obituary says that he was also in service and at the surrender of Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown, October 21st, 1781.

Robert Wright, it is shown, was born March 7th, 1762, in Amhurst County, Virginia, and died in Madison County, Alabama, (where he had purchased 160 acres of land in 1813) March 24th, 1847.

Kesiah Bibb, his wife, and Mother of Elizabeth Wright Esslinger, (and thirteen younger children) was born in Amhurst County, Virginia, on November 22, 1768.

JEFFERSON COUNTY, TENNESSEE WILLS, VOL. 2, 1811-26, Page 297.

Copied from WPA records in Tennessee State Library.

ANDREW ESSLINGER'S WILL—Dated May 9, 1820; Probated in 1824.

"In the name of God, Amen. I Andrew Esslinger of Jefferson County and State of Tennessee, being weak in body, but of sound memory (thank God) and knowing that it is appointed once for all men to die, I hereby make my last Will and Testament, in the manner and form following (viz)—

After my decease I desire that all my jest debts be paid and after that all my lands, hereditaments ? houses etc and all my perishable property and all that I possess I give unto my beloved wife Christinia Eslinger for and during the term of her natural life, or remains my widow, and after her decease, I give the same unto all my children hereinafter mentioned, and all to be equally divided amongst them e.i. Adam, Casper, David, Andrew, Christian, John and Catherine Mary, Elizabeth, Nancy to be enjoyed by them and their heirs forever— And lastly I do hereby appoint and constitute my friends William Hill and George Taff my executors of this my last Will and Testament, hereby revoking all other or forever Will or Testament by me heretofore made. In Witness Whereof I do set my hand and seal this ninth day of May in the Year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty."

Alabama Records, Volume 80

Page 71 (being from the Census of Madison County, Mississippi Territory Jan. 1809, from Territorial Papers of the U. S. Vol. V (Miss.) by Carter.)

Robert Wright
6 males under 21
1 male over 21
2 females under 21
Total of 9 and 1 slave

Alabama Records, Volume 38

Page 28 Census of 1850	Age	Born
Esslinger, Thomas	24	Tenn.
Eliza	23	Ala.
Esslinger, William W.	34	Tenn.
Martha C.	28	Ala.
Andrew J.	6	Ala.
Elender Harris	4	Ala.
John N.	2	Ala.
James W.	5-12	Ala.
Esslinger, Elizabeth	65	Va.
Mary	42	Tenn.
Sarah	41	Tenn.
John	31	Tenn.
Page 30		
Esslinger, Andrew J.	34	Tenn.
Sarah C.	25	N.C.
Charles	9	Ala.
Levi W.	7	Ala.
James T.	5	Ala.
Elizabeth	3	Ala.
LaFayette	22	"Arcancy"
Page 95		
Wrigh, Robert	57	Va.
Keziah	38	Ala.

I, Kathleen Paul Jones, hereby certify I copied the above items from the manuscript volumes of Alabama Records cited, compiled by Pauline Jones Gandrud and Kathleen Paul Jones (copies of said volumes are in the DAR Library in Washington, D.C.)

Kathleen P. Jones.

State of Alabama, Madison County.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 1st day of November, 1947.

William T. Ryan, Notary Public.

ROBERT WRIGHT

On the concrete walk on the north side of the Court House yard in Huntsville, Alabama, is a monument, upon the north side of which is a bronze plaque upon which the ladies of the DAR have had inscribed the names of the various soldiers of the American Revolution, who are known to be buried in Madison County, Alabama. Among these names appears the name of Robert Wright, the man who was the father of Elizabeth Esslinger, who is also buried in Madison County, Alabama, and is the mother of the generations of Esslingers and their descendants, whose names we seek to give in this booklet.

Robert Wright was born and lived in Amhurst County, Virginia, until he entered the Virginia State Militia, subsequently inducted into the patriot army of the war of 1776. The war of the American Revolution.

In the year 1813 Robert Wright entered or purchased 160 acres of land near Flint River, upon which he lived until his death on the 24th day of March, 1847.

Following his death this obituary was published in the Huntsville Democrat and largely copied by various newspapers. Extracts from various newspapers in Alabama Records, Volume 35, in Washington, D.C., shows the death notice of Robert Wright: "Departed this life on the 24th instant March (1847) Robert Wright, Senior, a patriot of the Revolution, aged 85 years and seventeen days, native of Amhurst County, Virginia. Was at the siege of York, and assisted in the capture of Cornwallis, emigrated to Madison County, Alabama, in 1808 where he continued to reside until the day of his death, greatly esteemed and beloved by a large circle of friends and acquaintances. Southern Advocate and Richmond Enquirer copy."

Kathleen Paul Jones, an expert geneologist, secured the above items from the manuscript volumes of Alabama Records, which are in the DAR Library in Washington, D.C., having been copied from the original newspapers in old files by herself and her sister-in-law, Pauline Jones Gandrud.

In a letter to your Historian, William E. Sandidge, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Amhurst County, Virginia, dated November 3rd, 1947, said in part: "Your letter of October 31st received, making inquiries as to Wright and other families, who were in this county prior to 1800. We find that on November 22, 1784, a Robert Wright was granted a license to marry Keziah Bibb. Security on the bond was William Bibb, and the witness was William Loving, Jr. . . . We do not have in this office any record of Revolutionary soldiers, but in a list of Revolutionary soldiers from Amhurst County, published in Hardesty's Education and Geographical Encyclopedia (1884 Edition) the name of a Robert Wright is given. Very truly yours, Wm. E. Sandidge, Clerk."

We personally know that a family connection existed between the Bibb and Esslinger families. About 1877 the writer recalls a conversation between William Wright Haden and my grandfather, William Wright Esslinger, at his home, in regard to the relationship between the two families. At that time there had been a report and some newspaper publication that a descendant of the Virginia Bibb family named Nancy Bibb Key had died in some large city, New York or Chicago, without direct descendants, so that a large fortune would be left for distribution among the descendants of the early Bibb family.

It is also to be noted that the William Bibb, surety on the bond of Robert Wright is believed to be the same William Bibb who became first governor of the state of Alabama. It is further noted that this same family had a Robert Bibb, who in turn became governor of Alabama. and was probably named "Robert" for this same Robert Wright. Handsome houses were erected by these men, one on Williams street in Huntsville, Alabama, and the other upon a fine farm in Limestone County, which was given the name of "Belle Manor" from which the railroad station in Limestone County, nearby, was given the name of "Belle Mina."

The son of Robert Wright, William Wright, became his administrator, Case No. 53918, in the records of the Orphans Court of Madison County, Alabama. The list of heirs filed by him indicates that our "Grandmother Elizabeth" was the oldest daughter of Robert Wright, who had fourteen (14) children.

On the 10th of February 1851, William Wright as such administrator, filed in the Probate Court of Madison County the following list of the heirs of Robert Wright, Senior, to-wit:

Robert Wright, Senr., dec'd.

List of Heirs.

1. Elizabeth Eslinger.
2. Susan Love.
3. Mary Hallmark, wife of Jesse Hallmark.
4. John Wright.
5. Robert Wright, Jr.
6. William Wright
7. Sally Calvert (dec'd) (13 or 14 children)
8. Augustus Wright.
9. Thomas S. Wright.
10. James Wright.
11. Jane Jenkins, wife of Mills Jenkins.
12. Eunice Connally, wife of Charles Connally
13. Elsy Potts, wife of Calloway Potts.
14. Jonathan R. Wright.

The State of Alabama—Madison County. S. S.

Before me, John W. Otey, Judge of the Probate Court of said County, this day personally appeared William Wright, Admr., of the Estate of Robert Wright, Senr., dec'd. and made oath that the foregoing contains a true list of the heirs of said decedent.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 10 Febry. 1851.

Jno. W. Otey, Judge P.C. Wm. Wright.

State of Alabama—Madison County.

I, Thos. W. Jones, Judge of Probate in and for the County and State aforesaid, hereby certify that the foregoing transcript contains a full, true and correct transcript of the List of Heirs of Robert Wright Sr., deceased,

as recorded in Miscellaneous Record 8 page 54, Probate Office Madison County, Alabama.

Given under my hand and seal of office this 12 day of December, 1947.

SEAL Thos. W. Jones, Judge of Probate.

An examination of the records of Jefferson County in the State of Tennessee and transcribed for the records in the State Library at the Capitol Building in Nashville, Tennessee, contain, among others, the following annotations and records:

The Will of Whom we call Andrew Esslinger, the First, is recorded in Will Book 2, page 297 in the records of Jefferson County, Tennessee, and shows that his widow was Christiana Esslinger. Andrew Esslinger, the Second, as shown in Record Book 3, page 472 and Volume 3, page 531 and 532 show that Andrew Esslinger the Second left no Will, but the Estate was wound up in the year 1838. Some of the entries in said record as follows:

ELIZABETH WRIGHT ESSLINGER

"Allowance to Elizabeth Esslinger, Widow: We the undersigned being appointed by the County Court of Jefferson County, to lay off the yearly supplies of Elizabeth Esslinger widow and relict of Andrew Esslinger, deceased, do hereby report the following: Allowance to wife, ten head of hogs, two hundred and seventy-five bushels of corn, three and a half bushels of wheat, one milk cow. Given under our hands this the 23rd day of December A.D., 1837.

Patrick M. Dunwoody
Miledas Bragg
Shadrack Inman

An Inventory of the amount of sales of the personal property belonging to the estate of Andrew Esslinger, decesaed, on the 27th December A.D. 1837."

1 large cast plow, John Swan	6.25
1 small plow, Robert Esslinger	2.76
1 small plow, Robert Esslinger	.31¼
1 shovel, Robert Esslinger	.45
1 cross-cut saw, Robert Taft	5.37½

1 hand saw, Jesse Taft	.62½
2 augers, Denton & Lacy	.77½
1 axe, John Swan	2.12½
1 square chisel, Elizabeth Esslinger	.47
1 iron wedge, Robert Esslinger	.62½
1 iron wedge, P. Elliott	.52
1 meal tub, 1 axe, George M. Elliott	.50
1 drawing knife, Jesse Taft	.40
1 keg, John Fain	.25
1 clevis and pin, E. Esslinger	.26
1 collar and traces, E. Esslinger	.50
1 large pot, E. Esslinger	.50
1 small pot, E. Esslinger	.37½
1 oven and lid, E. Esslinger	.25
1 small pot, E. Esslinger	.25
1 smoothing iron, E. Esslinger	.06½
1 lot of ware & brown ware, Joel W. Coven	53.50
1 bay colt, Geo. Gregory	66.00
1 black colt, Geo. M. Elliott	30.50
1 wagon, Thos. Denson	25.00
1 log chain, Thos. Denson	2.00
1 yoke of oxen, Geo. Gregory	30.00
1 speckled heifer, Joel W. Cowan	4.62½
1 cow and calf, B. Thornton	8.40
1 cow, Samuel Baker	5.00
8 hogs, 1st choice, Wm. Esslinger	11.00
7 hogs, second choice, Isaac Rivers	6.00
8 geese, 1 pig, 1 bell, 1 box and contents, Isaac Rivers	3.30
1 man's saddle, Louis Bird	8.50
1 falling leaf table and clock, L. Rhehart	11.75
1 cupboard, Thos. Denson	13.00
1 table, Elizabeth Esslinger	.12½
2 beds and trunk, Elizabeth Esslinger	.50
6 chairs & trunk, Elizabeth Esslinger	.50
4 sheep, 1st choice, William Keel	6.14½
5 sheep, 2nd choice, William Keel	5.20
62 pounds of cotton, John Hill	2.40
1 sorrel mare, John W. Cobb	59.29

1 bridle, Robert Esslinger .40
8 bushels of rye at 53c, Robert Esslinger 4.24
James Taft, Administrator.

FROM TENNESSEE

The records of Dandridge, Tennessee show that the property of him we term Andrew the Second, was sold at public outcry, late in 1837 as shown upon the preceding page. His widow, Elizabeth Esslinger and her sons, Robert and William, (called Bob and Bill) having purchased such articles as they desired, evidently at a price less than that required of any other bidder, having previously arranged the proper barge, or bulwark flatboat, soon departed from Dandridge, down the French Broad river, and on down the Tennessee river to their future home in Alabama. This was in keeping with the advice of her father, Robert Wright, her brother William Wright. Her oldest son, Andrew Jackson Esslinger, who for some time had lived in Madison County, Alabama, with his grandfather, Robert Wright and his uncle, William Wright also advised her to come.

Without doubt their preparations were already made before the sale, so that as soon as the widow's share and the articles purchased at the sale, could be delivered to them, the fall season being almost over, they embarked early one Sunday morning on the trip down the river. Later in the year ice would be forming on the upper branches of the river and upon that account, the trip could not be delayed.

Whether Mother Elizabeth owned the barge or not, the record does not disclose, yet it was of the type, in common use in those pioneer days. It must have been at least thirty feet in length and the central part of the barge well covered over with a good wooden roof. The prow of the boat was left uncovered for a look-out, or pilot, who had charge of two long poles, one of which was tipped with an iron point and hook, a masterpiece of the local blacksmith. These poles were used for moving the boat where the current did not carry, or to fend off floating logs, or to push away from dangerous banks.

The rear of the boat was uncovered and here stood the man who managed the steering oar. The steering oar was a long lever, or stout pole, to which a wide board had been attached by wooden pins. About midway the lever was fastened to the barge by a swivel (also made by the blacksmith), the up end being smooth for handling, and the board extending deep into the water. By this the course of the barge could be gradually changed in a current, with or without the aid of the poles.

Rains and winds had to be considered and her household goods carefully loaded, or packed under the shelter.

This was after such voyages down the river were prohibited by the embargo of Draging Canoe, and other chiefs of the Chickasaw and Cherokee tribes. The trading post at Ross' landing, was now called Chattanooga. At Ross' landing a guide was usually engaged by the boatmen for a passage through the "Suck," The "Boiling Pot, the "Skillet" and the "Frying Pan." All combined, often called "The Suck." This was where the Tennessee River cut through the Cumberland mountains to what was the Indian town called "Nickajack," and the beginning of the broad lands of the Tennessee Valley in Alabama. Her big boys were deemed ample boatmen to manage the barge down the rivers, except perhaps through the dangerous passages below Chattanooga generally called the "Suck." At Chattanooga a guide was secured to conduct the voyagers through the perils of "the Suck." This guide would leave the boat at Nickajack (near Nickajack Cave, Tennessee) and find his way on foot, back to Ross' landing, by the old Indian trail, which skirted the River and the north end of Lookout Mountain. The writer has been told that their heavy boat became involved in the whirlpool, at night, and that they had the usual experience of passing the same objects which they thought to be duplicated, as they appeared to be, on the bank of the river, more than once, as they drifted with the current. The story of their mother's experience, even with a guide, was told the writer, when quite a lad, about the year 1877, as I rec-

ollect, by his father and grandfather, and an accompanying story, somewhat as follows: "A barge loaded with pioneers with a guide, was caught at night, in the whirlpool of "the Suck", and after floating, as they thought, for miles with the current, noticed that they passed cabin after cabin, in which people were dancing and mountain fiddlers were playing "Old Zip Coon," until they discovered that it was the same cabin that they were repeatedly passing, as they floated round and round in the whirlpool."

This story, quoted from a local boatman, is elaborately told by Donald Davidson in his book "The Tennessee," Volume One, beginning on page 205.

Robert, Thomas S., and James were the younger boys, and gave valuable aid to their sisters Elizabeth Bowman, Mary (Polly) and Sarah (Sallie) in the daily routine of housekeeping, kitchen and family laundry work, aboard the floating world.

A stone hearth, near the steering oar, under the roof, the useful oven with an iron tripod to support the hanging kettle, supplied the means of cooking. Wood in abundance, was easily secured from dry drifts, or dead trees.

Upon leaving "The Narrows," our people floated out into the beautiful plains of lower Sequatchie Valley and quietly, but constantly drifted into the great bend of "the Tennessee." The barge bore to the right of a long island, and under the protection of a hill, tied up for a windy night. This must have been at the town of Bridgeport, then all wild woods. All along, the men secured fish and game to replenish their ample larder with fresh food, even though they were well provided with essentials from the farm.

In a southwesterly direction the barge drifted, making slow progress as the land became more level, until the rear wind came along to help.

The streams and valleys were widening. Sand Mountain rose to the left, back of fertile valleys, now being settled up like those on the right hand, extending back

to the picture-like blue peaks of the Cumberland foothills. Places where large creeks emptied into the river, were passed; but Crow Creek, Mud Creek and Sauter's Creek were not known to our voyagers by name.

For hours, mother Elizabeth Wright Esslinger and her interested family would admire the beautiful hills and mountains, extending from Moccasin Bend above the Narrows to the mouth of Paint Rock River, so much like the Tennesse Mountains left behind, upon the brawling French Broad. At such times, they spoke of her family, her father's and uncle's families, with joyful hopes for their early meeting. They looked forward to the more level lands, and to farming wider fields. They spoke of the prosperity of her kinsmen, William Bibb and Robert Bibb. William Bibb, first governor of Alabama was her uncie and their success in politics in Alabama, as well as the prosperity of her brother, William Wright, and her father, Robert Wright, now owning such goodly lands as they needed, cheered them on their way.

Our voyagers drifted on southwardly with the tide until they reached a point near some high land on the north side of the river. That was Thursday morning. The sun was bright and the wind from the southwest was mild and rather warm for the season. Our people had plenty of food but the meat had so far, been almost entirely, pork of some kind, procured from their own pigs raised in Tennessee. Some of them suggested that in addition to what few fish they had captured, some beef might be had from some of the settlers near the bank of the river. At this point a canoe came out and our voyagers soon observed that he was not an Indian but a white man clad in the garb of a frontiersman. He held up his hand and hailed the barge, asking what they had to trade. The reply was that they had only a few furs, two grey fox pelts, one red fox pelt and the skin of one black bear. "Where did you catch the black bear?" asked the canoeman. "The boys shot him in a hunting trip over on the Tuckaseegee River," was the reply. The canoeman came aboard and introduced himself. "Name is Larkin, I live in the house back on the hill there in

the clearing."

The visitor explained that he did not need any extra furs at this time, but was sadly needing some Sweetening. "Have you any beef?" Asked our voyagers. "We have no beef but we have some fine venison up at my house. Last week I shot a fine spiked buck in my back new ground. I would be glad to trade half of this buck to you for some molasses if you have it." The voyagers remembered that they had a barrel well filled with excellent molasses in good condition; so they soon made a trade with Mr. Larkin for half of his buck, giving him in return, eight gallons of splendid molasses. With this transaction closed, Mr. Larkin bid them good bye with wishes for a successful trip down the river.

At Pine Island, they stopped to secure some fuel, then continued the voyage on down by Gunter's Landing. This seemed to be a busy settlement at this time, barges and canoes were much in evidence and it seemed many Indians were gathered in groups. Subsequently they learned that this was part of the exodus of the Cherokees from this section of Alabama to their western territory, under the iron clad orders of President Andrew Jackson, and Millard Fillmore, who succeeded him as President.

Passing below Guntersville where the river was wide and gravel bars were numerous, much help to the progress of the barge was rendered by the big boys with their poles.

About six miles down the river they came to the bluff on the north side called Honeycomb Bluff. From these successions of caverns from the water, up to a considerable height, the bluffs were named and from them the creek known as Honeycomb Creek, with its valley, and the Little Honeycomb Creek and valley just north of the river. Between two cliffs full of these caverns, with their echoes and honeycomb-like formation, a valley came down the river. Here is where Andrew Jackson and his army crossed the river on their way to defeat the Seminoles and later the English at New Orleans, in

1812. Here the river was deep and quiet. On the south the bank was sandy and easily accessible, but on the north the river was approached down a steep hill. In later years, from 1876 to 1915, the writer was thoroughly familiar with this part of the Tennessee River as he was born on the Fennell Plantation, at his grandmother's, just south of this crossing, or ferry, later known as Deposit. This was just about four miles north of the town of Warrenton.

At this point in the year 1864, a small battle was fought exactly at this crossing, between Union soldiers on the north and Confederate soldiers on the south. At this time all territory north of the Tennessee river was occupied and held by the Federal troops, but all south of the Tennessee river was in the Southern lines. The names of the commanders in charge, have escaped me. The Federal troops erected a barricade of logs, near the river, but the Confederate troops being where the soil was more easily handled, threw up an earthern embankment, and from these shelters each side fired vigorously at the other. One man was killed on the Confederate side. In my boyhood days, it appeared most wonderful to hear the echoes as the steam-boats urged by large engines and large stern-wheel paddles, came chugging up the river.

At first the echo would resound down to the left, as we stood on the south side of the river, and could hear the echo from the caves and bluffs on the north side. As the boats progressed the echo would grow further and further up the river, and finally when the boat was near, with its towering smokestacks and wonderful loads of cotton, goods, animals and merchandise of various kinds, and people, the echo would be far up to the right; and all was excitement as the boat landed. One of these boats was the "Robert R. Anderson", another the "Chattanooga." A small boat was the "Ida." One of the most modern was the "Guntersville" later the tug "Huntsville" with its stern wheel and strong engines, pushed the barges from Hobbs Island to Guntersville, joining the two parts of the Nasrville, Chattanooga and St. Louis Rail-

road, with all the splendor of the noises, echoes and hissing of steam, incidental to all boats. This writer knew the captains of some of these boats. One was Captain Samuels of Guntersville and another was Captain James R. Johnson of New Hope, which was called Vienna, before the Civil War. It is said that after the destruction of the town by the Federal soldiers; after the war was ended, the new town was named, and expressed a "new hope."

(Incidentally, Captain James R. Johnson, in a Democratic convention, for Madison County, Alabama, put in nomination for Tax Collestor of Madison County, Andrew J. Esslinger, who was nominated and elected, serving four years from 1892 to 1896, as Tax Collector of Madison County. He was the father of this writer.)

At Deposit a messenger was secured to send by horseback, over the Jackson Trail, to the home of William Wright, the brother of grandmother Elizabeth, and to her son, Jack Esslinger, the information that their barge would soon be in the Paint Rock River, and for them to send to Vienna such transportation as they saw fit, to bring them up into the Little Cove.

Within a few hours down the river appeared the face of the wonderful cliff known as the Painted Rock. It is so located that its face shows many miles up the river. From this beautiful rock, the river takes its name and the valley, drained by it, known as the beautiful Paint Rock Valley. The railroad town located on the river, is also called Paint Rock, in Jackson County, Alabama.

Just past this bluff the mouth of Paint Rock River reaches the Tennessee. Into this our barge was steered and then some work with hooks and poles to slowly work the heavy barge up the Paint Rock River, to a suitable landing on the Jackson Trail near Vienna just east or southeast of what is now New Hope. Here they rested until the teams from up the valley came with one large ox wagon and a carry-all for the women, and a wagon pulled by two strong mules, and men enough to load

all the goods onto the wagon. Then began their long day's journey back up the valley over the well marked military and Indian road, called Jackson's Trail.

After the first mile of soft ground, the traveling was fairly good, until the mountain gap called Cedar Ridge, was reached. Here the road was extremely rough and the drivers had to proceed with undue care and very slowly. Further on they came to what was subsequently named the Cave Spring. A space between a large mountain and a small mountain that is a depression, rather than a hill like Cedar Ridge. Between these mountains there is a level sunken area of a few acres over which a creek flows, right out of one cave and across the bottom of the depression and into another cave, estimated at about one thousand feet. The water is as pure and as sweet as any water in the County of Madison, with all of its wonderful and sweet springs. Once under the little mountain it continues about two miles, then comes out at what is called Hinds Spring and comprises one of the main feeders of Goose Creek. Goose Creek, across which our people went also, in their wagons, has its origin in what is called the Horse Cove of Keel's Mountain, which is a part of the Big Cove lying southeast of Huntsville. This name, Horse Cove, was given to this cove in the mountains, because here the settlers could turn out their horses and cattle for grazing and know that it would not be easy for the Indians to stampede them out over the mountains, while they themselves, guarded the mouth of the Cove. Just south of this cove and at the Cave Springs mentioned above, a skirmish was also fought during the Civil War and a fine young man from one of the homes near Hurricane Creek, was killed. With his comrades they met a squad of Federal soldiers returning from a raid near Vienna. They fought from behind fences and rocks. Mr. Chambers, who was killed, was lying behind a rock and he would raise up and shoot over it, so once as he raised, a minnie ball struck his head and killed him.

As our friends followed the trail north they came also by the foot of Raven Bluff, which is undoubtedly the tallest bluff at the foot of a mountain in Madison county, not located on a stream. It is a wonderful sandstone, full of caves and has often been a great shelter for sheep running at large on the mountain. At the front of this formation is a rock, large at the top and small as a large barrel, at the base, called the Candle Stand, which can be reached by a three-foot jump from the main cliff. This formation, and the Cave Spring, are worth a half-day's drive over our improved roads, to see, any Sunday afternoon.

It is also said that a band of soldiers or home guards called "bushwhackers" shot from this rock, at a squad of Federal soldiers, passing south, conducted by Alex Wright, a slave of Uncle William Wright, who had been impressed by the squad to show them the road. Fortunately the bullets rose too high and only one of the Federals was wounded, being shot in the wrist. The man, Alex, was terribly frightened. He ran away from the bluff, getting more and more into the range of the bullets, yet he escaped the bullets, only to be so badly frightened that it was said, he never was very well again. His daughter, Paralee Wright, told me this, while she was a maid in my mother's home, when I was less than twelve years old.

Soon our travelers were resting in the home of her brother and the brothers and sisters were enjoying a reunion with their brother Jack at the home of her brother William Wright. Here I will remark that in my early days, when this home was occupied by another, I often saw a machine, lying out, rusting away. It was called a "spinning jenny." Soon after Eli Whitney invented the cotton gin, additions were made and suggested, some of which led to this odd machine, which would have done the work of an ordinary yarn factory, in addition to ginning the cotton, as directed by the inventor of the cotton gin.

Our family was finally located and their history and

the history of their descendants has formed a part of the history of Madison County. Their industry, men and women, has done much to build the homes and establish the farms so valuable and so beautiful in this our home county of Madison. Who was Elizabeth Esslinger? In a former page we have indicated that Elizabeth was the daughter of Robert Wright, whose wife was Keziah Bibb. Their home was in Virginia and from this home it is possible Elizabeth came into Tennessee to teach school or to perform some service and there met Andrew Esslinger, designated in this booklet as Andrew the Second. The son of Andrew Esslinger the First, who was the son of Christian Esslinger, who came to Pennsylvania in the good ship "Patience" in the year 1749, whose English master was Captain Hugh Steel.

After the arrival of our family at the homes of her father and brother, we may properly follow the history of the children of Elizabeth Wright Esslinger after she established her home in the Little Cove from which her children were sent into the business life of north Alabama, among whom were so many industrious farmers and teachers. The family evidently was engaged with her father, Robert Wright, for some years, in farming. During this time she occupied a home on the hundred and sixty acres of fine land in Little Cove, purchased from the Government by her father. It has been suggested that as a veteran of the Revolutionary War of 1776, his purchase was effected by land warrants granted veterans. Subsequently Elizabeth Esslinger bought a farm home which adjoins her father's plce, where she and two of her daughters lived the remainder of their lives. Until recent years one of her sisters Alsey Potts, many years younger than she, who was the thirteenth child of Robert Wright, with Calloway Potts her husband, owned and occupied that eighty acres of land in Madison County, Alabama. It was the E½ of the NE ¼ of Section Seven, Township Four, Range two East.

THE SUBLETT FAMILY

Her daughter, Elizabeth Bowman Esslinger, was married to William L. Potts, and lived in this vicinity. They

had only one child, Elizabeth Potts, who became the wife of a fine young farmer in that vicinity known as L. M. (Pug) Sublett. She and her husband lived until their deaths upon an adjoining farm which is now owned and occupied by a son, Mr. Oda W. Sublett. His wife is Mrs. Belle Conally Sublett, who has helped Mr. Sublett to operate and conduct the farm with the energy and industry leading to deserved success.

Oda W. and Belle have two sons, both married. The elder son, William C. Sublett, whose wife is Kate Brewer Sublett, lives in or near the City of Birmingham, where he is in business. The children of William C. and Kate B. Sublett are Carolyn, aged 7 years; Donald, aged 4 years; and Linda, aged 1 year.

Another son, Robert L., married Miss Sue Bailey, who also gives valued aid to him in his farming operations, at their home south of Brownsboro, (R.F.D. No. 1) in this Madison County.

Nydia Sublett, a daughter, was married to Mr. James W. Terry, of Route No. 2, Elora, Tenn., where he is engaged in farming. At her death, she left a son and two daughters, Maurice B. Terry, Annie C. Terry and Mary Willie Terry. The son's wife is named Lillian, and they live in Birmingham, Ala., while he is in the armed service of the U. S., with rank of Master Sergeant. Annie C. is the wife of Walter T. Albright, an advanced farmer of Monticello, Ky. The daughter, Mary Willie Terry, now living in Huntsville, Ala., is an attentive, attractive sales lady, very efficient and much in demand, as such, as well as being likable and popular.

If the parents of Rhesa W. Sublett had not been supplied with kin named William, Mr. L. M. Sublett and Elizabeth Potts Sublett, would probably have given that name to their oldest son, Rhesa, but, her father was William L. Potts, his brother, was William Sublett, and four of Pug's sisters had married men named William. They were William Nail, William W. Esslinger, William J. Potts and William Jacobs.

Rhesa W. Sublett attended a school taught my me. From a fine, energetic affable boy, he developed into a fine man, whose principal occupation has been that of our family's pride, farming. He was born in the Little Cove about 1877, and about the year 1901 was married to Miss Lula Bob Campbell, about five years his junior. They have a most attractive half dozen children, of which any parents might be proud, and now live in Athens, Alabama, a college city, in adjoining County.

Their oldest son, William Berry Sublett, born 1903, was married in 1924 to Miss George Earl Greene, of Tennessee, and they now reside at Hohenwald, Tennessee, where William Berry is a prosperous farmer and trucker. Like all farmers, who succeed best, his wife has always been by him, willing at all times to lend a hand and do more than her full part to make a happy home.

The seven children born to W. B. Sublett and Miss Greene, are briefly mentioned here as follows: William Earl Sublett, age 25, married to Miss Jean Woodfin, to whom a baby boy, named Wm. E. Junior, has been born; who is also engaged in the honored business of farming, in Tennessee ,meeting great success in that calling.

A daughter, Doris M. Sublett Dorning, aged 23, is married to Mr. Richard Dorning, of Tennessee, a fine farmer and experienced salesman ,and they have two fine children, Judy and Larry.

W. B. Sublett and Miss Greene, also have three fine sons, namely: William Wayne, age 21, unmarried, and enlisted in the Coast Guards of U. S.; Kenneth Lee Sublett, aged 19 years, who will finish high school in 1950; and Harold Sublett, a ball-playing school boy of 16 years. Also, two sweet girls, Amy June, aged 12, and Carolyn, aged 9, both in school, where they excel.

Mr. L. M. Sublett and his wife, have a grand daughter, daughter of Rhesa and Lula Bob, living in Sheffield, Alabama, named Sara G. Sublett Stroud, about 39, wife of Clarence E. Stroud, to whom she was married in 1932, where he is a valued Carpenter Foreman. Their two

children are a manly boy Columbus Walter Stroud, 17, who will graduate from high school in 1950, and a sweet school girl of 7 years named Susan Stroud, the pride and pet of the family.

Their third daughter, is D. Lurline Sublett Clem, aged 36, who like her parents, resides in the College City of Athens, Alabama, where she was married in 1941 to Mr. R. Turner Clem, a prosperous and energetic produceman and farmer, our boasted avocation of the Esslingers.

Another son of Rhesa and Lula Bob, Edwin Ellis Sublett, lives in Mundelian, Ill., his employment being that of a "Radio Technician." He is about 32, and was married in 1918 to Miss Anna Mae Heinshon, of Iillinois, with whom he divides the care and rearing of their idol, Edwin Ellis Sublett, Jr., a bouncing baby boy.

The youngest of the children of Rhesa and Lula B. Campbell, is Edsel Ford Sublett, aged 27, still unmarried, who seems to be too busy teaching school at Crawfordsville, Florida, to see a way to secure the lovely bride he deserves, to help him properly enjoy the sweet Orange Blossoms of that grand state of Florida or the state of matrimony.

The eldest daughter of Rhesa Sublett and his wife, Lula B. Campbell is Mrs. Velma E. Sublett Smith, born 1908, ho lives in another school city of Alabama, Montevallo, in Shelby County. She was married in 1932 to Mr. Ruby Carl Smith, a farmer and steel worker; one of those handy men mechanical, as well as a grower of all kind of crops. Velma and her husband have four most attractive children, the eldest being Betty Jane, who will graduate from high school in 1951, and may teach. Robert Carl Smith, aged 15, who likes ball playing, his studies and the girls his own age; with the two younger children, Ellis Aaron Smith, age 8, in school and Gail Sharleen Smith, aged five years, just anxious to begin school.

Their daughter, Comelia Florence Sublett is the wife

of James Macon McNeill, they live upon a farm at Rives, Tennessee, where Mr. McNeill has been a successful farmer and cattle raiser. They have an interesting family, in which a son Harold Nathan McNeill is much in demand as an expert accountant. His wife is Mary Duncan McNeill, is well educated and assists him in his work.

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Another farmer of our family is their son Murriell Russell McNeill, whose wife is Frances Carmack McNeill, she being well connected with the prominent Carmack family of Tennessee. Their son, George Macon McNeill, is doing well and hopes to make both the McNeill and Carmack family, relatives on his mother's side, proud of the manly son. Florence and Macon have another son, Willbern Oliver McNeill, very useful and systematic in his career as a valued Rural Mail Carrier. Though, this booklet is not to be a mailing list, I suggest that any mature single lady, interested in a fine, able-bodied single man of 36 summers, might reach him by **mail.**

Another son of L. M. and Lizzie Potts Sublett lives at R. No. 1, Owens X Roads, in Madison County. His wife's name was Miss Tommie Schrimsher, whose industry has done much to help Mr. Loyd Sublett succeed so well in farming, the avocation and pride of our family. Their son, Thomas Loyd Sublett, also of Owens X Roads, is an ambitious young farmer, and will be heard from along this line.

Loyd and Tommie S. have a married daughter, Elaine Sublett Baker, the wife of C. O. Baker, Jr., of Hobbs Island, Ala. Mr. Baker is prominent and successful in the trade of his wife's ancestors, being tops in farming and also a teacher of Vocational Agriculture, whose services as teacher are much in demand.

Nora, a daughter of L. M. Sublett and Lizzie Potts Sublett, is the wife of Wm. O. Smith, a prosperous farmer of R. No. 5, Fayetteville, Tenn., where they and their son and daughter now live.

Their son, Grady Odell Smith, married Ernia O. Wilson, of Toney, Alabama, and they have five children:

Billie Sue Smith (18), Martha Jean Smith (17), Lewis Ray Smith (15), and Sarah Carolyn Smith (7), all making good progress in school.

Their daughter, Mildred Adana Smith Gowen, is the wife of an industrious farmer and business man, William Cowden Gowen, and their son, of whom they are justly proud, Hiram C. Gowen, is now 15 years of age and makes good in his work and in school.

Another son of Mr. L. M. Sublett and Lizzie Potts, his wife, Edward Clifton Sublett, whose wife is Stella Florence Keel Sublett, lives at Union City, Tennessee, is also a farmer out on Route No. 1. They have a most interesting family of eleven children, of whom six are married. It is their good fortune to have at home with them, an industrious daughter, Florence Elizabeth, who is called upon for much attention by the other children at home, especially the school aged, who like help in about everything, not to mention lessons.

A daughter, Velta Mae Sublett Garrigan, of Woodland Mills, Tennessee, is the wife of another industrious farmer, Mr. W. T. Garrigan, Junior, who like the mother is devoted to the 2½ year old daughter, Judith Dianne Garrigan.

Martha Helen Sublett Tynes is the wife of Albert Lavern Tynes, owner and operator of a filling station at Bagalusa, La., where they delight in the possession of two fine children not yet of school age; Albert Laverne Tynes, Jr., aged 3, and Marthalene Tynes, aged 1½ years.

LaNora Glennell Sublett married an industrious mechanic of Union City, Tennessee, whose name is Mr. Coble R. Garrett, who with his wife, is very proud of their two lovely children, John Edward Garrett aged 3 years, and Amelia Lou Garrett, almost two.

James Carl Sublett, also lives in Union City, Tenn., has an industrious wife, Pauline Phebus, and two sweet children, the boy being James Carl Sublett, Jr., aged three, and the girl baby being Shirley Jo Sublett, aged one. James Carl is a farmer and G.I. teacher.

Edward Clifton Sublett, Jr., is a skilled mechanic,

whose services are much in demand in Union City, where he lives, his wife being Marion June Roberts, of Tennessee, and their baby boy of two years being named Edward Clifton Sublett, Jr., a delight to grand parents also.

Their daugher, Elmer Louise Sublett, became the wife of James Marvin Reeder, an active employee of Ford's Plants, where she is also employed, their home being on Shearer Drive, Plymouth, Michigan.

Harry Keel Sublett, an unmarried son, lives on Route No. 1, Union City, and takes pride in being an up-to-date farmer.

The three younger sons of Edward C. and Florence Keel Sublett live and work at home with the parents, William Kenneth being in high school, and David Lynn, being in the graded school, both being ambitious and industrious pupils.

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Nannie A. Esslinger to Willie P. Vann—12|12|1889	17	107
Emma Esslinger to James W. Craft—8|6|1890	17	388
Florence O. Esslinger to Frazier M. Drake—12|29|1896	22	163
E. A. Esslinger to J. H. Hunt—1|17|1896	21	395
Mary P. Esslinger to Thomas W. Wright—4|2|1898	22	456
Nannie B. Esslinger to John W. Wright—1|26|1899	25	43
Dessie B. Esslinger to Joseph Willie Wilson—5|26|1900	25	631
Mattie Esslinger to Alfred B. Manley—1|21|1903	28	167
Mary Esslinger to W. G. Ellett—1|8|1904	29	107
Sarah Maria Esslinger to Reuben Talley Comer—3|23|1904	29	244
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Mattie Esslinger to Forrest Webster—11|5|1910	35	626
Amy O. Esslinger to John H. Tabor—9|11|1914	40	16
Bessie E. Esslinger to James I. Cobb—11|5|1913	39	45
Ida Esslinger to Horace R. Christian—12|10|1913	39	120
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Bettie Esslinger to Frank D. Cobb—12|2|1915	41	163
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Willie Esslinger to Albert Spray—1|22|1919	44	468
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Louise Esslinger to J. A. Maddox—2|16|1924	49	467
Margaret Esslinger to Jim Kay Wilson—12|19|1925	51	266
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Era Esslinger to Calvin Hunter—7|9|1927	52	679
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Era Esslinger to Robt. L. Self—8|9|1928	54	75
Inez Esslinger to Wm. C. Mitchell—12|19|1928	54	384
Edith Esslinger to Chas. A. Quillin—8|20|1930	56	408
Ruby Esslinger to James Collett—12|20|1930	57	12
Sarah B. Esslinger to John D. Wall—9|12|31	57	556
Mary Esslinger to Glenn McGee—8|27|1932	58	659
Idella Esslinger to Willie B. Mullins—1|23|1933	59	368
Pauline Esslinger to Bill Elrod—12|23|1933	60	623
Idella Esslinger to Willie R. Mullins—9|8|1934	61	579
Phoebe Mae Esslinger to Carmen M. Russell—5|7|1937	65	427
Edith M. Esslinger to Julian C. Letcher—6|17|1938	67	416
Mamie G. Esslinger to T. Howard Rutland—12|16|1938	69	105
Helen Jean Esslinger to Floyd Jas. Perry—10|7|1939	69	547
Alice Esslinger to George William Allen—4|6|1940	70	291
Ruth Esslinger to Wyatt Joiner—1|18|1941	71	126
Mary Francis Esslinger to Robert Clayton Owens—9|13|1941	73	9
Litha Mae Esslinger to George Joseph Fello—42	74	193
Winifred Aileen Esslinger to George Milton Beason—6|4|1942	76	21
Joyce Esslinger to Ira Everett Hale—12|3|1942	77	250
Pauline Maude Esslinger to Elmer Bernard Hudson—1|1|1943	77	379
Frances Esslinger to John Samuel Hovis, Jr.—1|1|1943	81	77

Della Claricy Esslinger to David Anders—10|12|44	85	86
Jesse Mae Esslinger to Charles J. Minatree—12|14|1945	88	358
Mary Francis Esslinger to Thos. Robt. McCrary—10|1|1946	88	85
Emma Kate Esslinger to Jas. Walker Busbin—10|26|1946	88	221
Mary Jane Esslinger to William Leon Troupe—10|31|1946	88	240
Clara Elizabeth Esslinger to Jas. Edward Keenum—1|2|1947	88	598
Ruth Mae Esslinger to Richard P. Crowson—7|31|1948	92	504
Jane Elizabeth Esslinger to Billy Rhea Harris—7|25|1949	93	360

NAME AND NATIONALITY

The name Esslinger, evidently German as when brought to America by Christian Esslinger in 1749, as set out above, has been intermingled and crossed with other names of well known nationalities, as shown by the Marriage Index, and suggested as follows:

With the English we have the names Anderson, Atkins, Bishop, Butler, Brown, Baker, Barnes, Barton, Clark, Craft, Cook, Christian, Drake, Gamble, Glover, Gardiner, Hunt, Haden, Hodges, Harris, Hazelwood, Hughes, Hunter, Henry, Honey, Hale, Hudson, Hovis, Howard, Jackson, Jenkins, Joiner, Jones, Lusk, Miller, Milner, Mitchell, Moon, Martin, Morgan, Mullins, Phillips, Potts, Perry, Richardson, Roberts, Russell, Sanders, Spray, Smith, Stewart, Thompson, Warner, Wright, Wall, Webster, Wilkerson, Williams, Williamson, White, Walker, Woody, Whiteside and Willis.

With the Irish we have Allison, Bowers, Bryan, Busbin, Bibb, Comer, Cobb, Chaney, Cochran, Chandler, Cagle, Dorris, Dorning, Dicken, Gowen, Ellett, Ellis, Fairly, Garrigan, Grady, Hennessee, Higgins, Hymer, Haislip, Irwin, Ivey, Irvin, Javers, Kindle, Keenum, Kelly, McGuire, McNeill, Mabry, Manley (Manly), Neel, Neely, Owens, O'Neal, Parish, Petty, Pickett, Riddle, Self, Sublett, Spivey, Sullivan, Syler, Tabor, Turnage, Trissom and Watkins.

With the Scotch we have Anders, Allen, Anderson, Boakant, Campbell, Copeland, Dewey, Fulmer, Finley, Glasgow, Garner, Harless, Hallmark, Hornbuckle, Herrin, Haskins, Kaylor, Lamberson, Layman, Lipscomb, Locke, Mastastone, Mathewson, Minatree, McKelvey, McDonald, McDonnell, McCullough, McBride, McGee, McCrary, McGaha, Osborn, Pinion, Quillin, Rutland, Scott, Sherrill, Salmon, Sparks, Vann, Vance, Wallace,

Weatherly, Yates, and Yarbrough.

With the French we have Bomar, Crumrine, Clem, Collett, DeBow, DeLany, Duncan, Elrod, Fello, Fennell, Francis, LaRue, Maddox, Marckel, Mercer, Kaylor, Linthicum, Pedigo, Prewett, Troupe, Tynes, Phebus, Uptain, Veasey and Woodfin.

With the German we have Brooks, Beason, Erb, Green, Greene, Letcher, Granlund (Granland), Howell, Hangen, Heinshon, Preston, Crowson, Talman, Treece, Rodenhauser, Stroud, Varnes, Widener and Whitehurst.

THE STATE OF ALABAMA—MADISON COUNTY

Before me, a Notary Public in and for Madison County, Alabama, this day personally appeared Mills J. Potts, who is well known to me, and who being duly sworn deposes and says:

My name is Mills J. Potts, I am over the age of 84 years and have lived in said State and County, all my life.

I am the son of Elsy Potts and Calloway Potts.

Elizabeth Esslinger was the sister of my mother and died near our home. Said Elizabeth Esslinger, was the oldest child of Robert Wright; the widow of Andrew Esslinger, who died in Tennessee, and had the following children:

Andrew J. Esslinger
Polly Esslinger
Sarah (Sally) Esslinger
William Wright Esslinger
Elizabeth Bowman Esslinger
Robert Esslinger
Thomas S. Esslinger
James Esslinger

Said Elizabeth Esslinger and her children came to Madison County, Alabama, about 1838, where she lived until her death, as I am informed and believe.

Mills J. Potts.

Subscribed and sworn to before me on this the 1st day of October, 1947, as witness my hand and seal of office.

W. F. Esslinger,
Notary Public in and for Madison County, Alabama.

ELIZABETH'S CHILDREN

By the above affidavit, dated October 1st, 1947, made by Mills J. Potts, an aged first cousin of William Wirght Esslinger, my grandfather, it appears that the children of our ancestress, Elizabeth Wright Esslinger, were as follows, naming them in succession, eldest first, to-wit:

Andrew J. Esslinger, Polly Esslinger, (Mary), Sarah (Sally) Esslinger, William Wright Esslinger, Elizabeth Bowman Esslinger, Robert Esslinger, Thomas S. Esslinger and James Esslinger. This constitutes her family as I have been told and understood it to be, so my wish is to confirm the naming set out in the said affidavit. I knew of the two aunts of my father while they still lived at their old home in the Little Cove; we planned to go to see them, but waited too late. Aunt Mary (Polly) and Aunt Sarah (Sally) passed on and were interred where their mother and grand parents, and numerous other relatives were buried in the Jenkins Cemetery, near Beech Grove Church.

Whether Uncle James Esslinger, the young brother, ever married or not, I am not certain; but he died in Burleson County, Texas, at the home of a Mr. McGaha. Having no children, his heirs were here. Some effort was made to see about the little farm he had entered, but it appeared that it was too late, that our claims as heirs had been barred by the statute of limitations of Texas. It seems Mr. McGaha sold off the land in two parcels. That part of the County has been cut off and is now Lee County, the land being near McDade, Texas. That land had no great value. The writer saw it in the year 1891.

ANDREW J. ESSLINGER

Andrew Jackson Esslinger b. 1804. Died 1895 was the eldest son of Elizabeth Esslinger and Andrew Esslinger of Jefferson Co., Tennessee. It is legendary that he whom we call Uncle Jack came to Madison County before the rest of his mother's family arrived.

He lived with his uncle, William Wright, who was a

brother of his mother, and also a son of Robert Wright a veteran of the Revolutionary War and Keziah Bibb. His uncle owned some good farms and had some slaves. Uncle Jack was also engaged in farming and was a foreman and overseer for his Uncle. In 1841 after his mother had moved to Alabama he was married to Sarah C. Hunt about the 4th day of March, 1841, in Madison County, Ala. She was a niece of Mrs. Levi Hinds, and was a neice of John Hunt, a wealthy lumberman and land owner of South Alabama, South Louisiana and Northwest Florida. It seems that he left few heirs, and the orphan neice, Sarah C. Hunt, inherited a one-fourth interest in his property. The proceeds of her inheritance was invested in slaves and lands in Madison, Co., Ala., just prior to the War between the States. Much of this property was destroyed and lost during the War, but a fine farm upon Whitesburg Road was left. Some of the slaves owned by Uncle Jack lived in and around Huntsville. I knew Uncle Pleas Esslinger, a colored carpenter, who before the war was Uncle Jack's coachman. Others from his farm took the name of Ewing and Horton being the names of the farms upon which they had been born.

To Andrew Jackson Esslinger and Sarah Hunt **were** born: Levi W., James Thomas, John Washington, Sallie, Elizabeth J., Ogden, and Huldah.

The writer knew James Thomas Esslinger well, and admired him very much as a skilled mechanic. His wife, Mary DeBow, of the old DeBow family whose burial ground is just west of Keel's Mountain, about 4 miles south of Gurley near the Deposit road.

James T. Esslinger and his family lived for a while in Huntsville. They had several children, the eldest of whom was Daisy, who went to Pilot Point, Texas, and lived several years. Her family, if any, reside in Texas. Her husband was a Mr. Veasey.

His daughter, Emma, with her brother James DeBow Esslinger, and her sister, Sarah Mariah Esslinger lived in Huntsville, Ala., and were intimate friends and neighbors of our family many years ago. Emma was never

married and died in Texas. James DeBow Esslinger was very successful as a salesman for a firm in Houston, Texas, and visited us on his way to New York on business for his firm. His sister, Sarah Mariah, married a Mr. Reuben T. Comer of Comer, Georgia. He was engaged in the Textile business and was a relative of Governor B. B. Comer of Alabama.

When she visited us in Madison Co. the last time their little boy, Reuben T. Comer, Jr., was about four years old. Some time after this we heard of the death of his mother.

Their elder son, Levi W. Esslinger, lived in Madison Co., and was a farmer and stock raiser. His wife was Mattie Picket of Marshall Co., Alabama. He served in the War between the States and was in a company, of which a relative, John W. Grayson from Big Cove, was the captain. After the war he returned to his farm and lived there until his death about 1905.

They had quite a large and interesting family of whom Levi Pickett was the eldest son. He graduated at Tulane University at New Orleans and practiced medicine in Madison Co., Ala. He served as an interne in some hospital in Brooklyn, New York. In 1907 he was married to Rosa Cochran of New Market, Ala. As a family doctor he was almost worshiped by his patients, and his work became so great he was worn out and died young.

He passed away in the year 1917 after living in New Market some ten years. They had two children, Levi Pickett, Jr., and Mary Frances Esslinger, who was married in 1941 to Thomas McCrary. They reside in New Market, Ala., and have two children, Rosemary and Tommie. Levi Pickett, Jr., was married in 1946 to Miss Myrtle Ruth Kaylor and they reside in New Market and are interested in farming and merchandising.

A second son of Levi W. Esslinger and Mattie Pickett was Fennell H. Esslinger who farmed and attended school until he was married to Miss Florence Harris and was employed in Decatur by the L. & N. Railroad. They afterward returned to Huntsville and engaged in the

grocery business. He and his second wife are engaged in the grocery business in North Florence, Alabama. She was Miss Beuna Parish and is very industrious and helpful to her husband who has had much trouble with his eyes in recent years. She has been most active in keeping their nice grocery business flourishing.

Margaret Irene Esslinger, a daughter of Levi W. Esslinger and Mattie Esslinger, is the wife of Adolph Henry Varnes. They live in Ritzville, Washington, where he is a successful optometrist and business man. He was always very ingenious and handy with small tools of every kind. Their oldest daughter, Margaret Elizabeth Varnes is the wife of Edwin Dwight Granlund, optician and jeweler, who lives in Spokane, Washington. A son, Adolph Esslinger Varnes, lives in Spokane, Washington, has an office in the Fernwell Building, and is a Dr. of Optometry.

Margaret Elizabeth Granlund has two children, David Dwight, a son aged four and a half years, and Elizabeth Irene, a daughter aged three years.

Next to the youngest son of Levi W. Esslinger, and Mattie, his wife, was Lawrence J. Esslinger, born March 3rd, 1883, and died July 16th, 1947, at Seattle, Washington. His wife was Delpha Marckel Esslinger who was eight years younger than her husband and still lives in Seattle, Washington. They had one daughter, Helen Gwendolyn, who married Harry E. Anderson, October, 1935. He was killed in action October 3, 1944, overseas. Their only child, Bonnie Kay Anderson, died September 11, 1944, aged two years. Fortunately both of these widows are well provided for.

Horace W. Esslinger was the third son of Levi W. Esslinger and Mattie Pickett Esslinger and has succeeded most wonderfully as a farmer. After finishing in the local schools, he had a course in advanced agriculture. His wife was Hannah Rankin Weatherly, whose mother was English and whose father was Scotch. Hannah was graduated from Tuscaloosa Female College in 1898. She was a woman of much industry and like most farmers' wives, has been a great factor in helping her husband

accumulate much nice land and raise a most interesting and well-educated family of boys and girls. Their home is in the rich valley between Huntsville and the Tennessee River.

Their children are Sarah J., H.Walter and Marjorie W. H. Walter graduated at the A. P. I., Auburn, Ala., and for some years was assistant county agent of Sumter County, Alabama. During World War Two he entered the navy as an ensign, and is now a lieutenant in the U. S.N.R. His wife, Kathleen Sellers Crosby, from Opelika, is also a graduate from Auburn. They have a small daughter, Drucilla.

Sarah attended Florence State Teachers College, and married J. D. Wall, now proprietor of the Alabama Truck Line. They have a son, Horace David, in high school, and a daughter, Sarah Louise, not yet in her teens.

Marjorie attended University of Alabama, and married Albert U. Turner, Veterinarian, who graduated from Auburn. They live in Columbus, Georgia, and have two boys, John Albert, 6 years, and Jeptha Esslinger, two years old.

The younger daughter of Captain Levi W. Esslinger was Mary Frances, who became the wife of William Richardson, Jr., June 4th, 1918, in Huntsville, Alabama. She was married at the home of her cousin, Mrs. Blanche R. Esslinger. Mr. Richardson's home and work was in Birmingham, Alabama. He was an active engineer for the Tennessee Coal and Iron Company for years. He erected a handsome residence on Bush Boulevard in Birmingham. They had two daughters and one son, Martha R. Talman is the wife of Woods G. Talman, also in the employ of the T. C. & I. They live on Minnesota Avenue in Bessemer, Alabama, and have a young son, now three years old.

Their second daughter, Mary, is the wife of Dr. William M. Harris, Jr., and they live at 25th Street North, Birmingham.

Their son Dr. William B. Richardson is not married and lives in Birmingham, Alabama. He is about twenty-eight years of age and is a surgeon of great promise.

His opportunities have been splendid and he has taken several different courses perfecting his education.

It was a pleasure of the writer to visit him while an interne at the Massachusetts State Hospital in Boston.

The youngest son of Levi W. Esslinger was William Gordon Esslinger who married Miss Willow Verona Cook of Huntsville, Alabama. She was a girl of wonderful industry and affability. After the World War I they moved to Tuscaloosa, Alabama, where they were both engaged in some kind of industrial teaching. They had one son, William Gordon Esslinger, Jr., who was a great comfort to his mother after the death of his father, which occurred before World War II. William Gordon Esslinger, Jr., lost his life in the service of his country, and was subsequently interred in the Veteran's Division of Maple Hill Cemetery in Huntsville, Alabama, with full military honors.

His wife has been engaged in housekeeping and nursing in the hospitals of Birmingham until 1949, when she became the wife of Mr. William Erwin, a prosperous merchant. They now reside in the City of Birmingham.

John Washington Esslinger, son of Andrew Jackson Esslinger, married Cynthia Gardiner. Their children were: Davis Gardiner, William Andrew, Paul Clifford, Joe P., Trice L., and a daughter, Emma G.

Paul Clifford Esslinger is the son of John W. Esslinger and Cynthia Gardiner Eslinger. He was married to Miss Eva Grady of Huntsville, Alabama. They have four children, Edward, Owen, Pauline and Emma Kate. Owen Esslinger was married to Miss Frances B———— of Jacksonville, Florida, where they now reside. Pauline became the wife of Mr. Elmer B. Hudson of Jacksonville, Florida, where they now live. Both are engaged actively in business and in the civic life of Jacksonville. Grady Esslinger was married to Miss Juanita Perry Miller and is engaged in the textile business in the large mills of Huntsville. They have one daughter named Christa. Emma Kate Esslinger became a graduate nurse and was engaged in the work at Huntsville. She was married to Mr. J. C. Busbin and they have a small son named Paul.

Joe P. Esslinger was the son of said John W. Esslinger and his wife, Cynthia. His wife (Joe P.) was the former Miss Chaney, who died leaving no children. Afterward he resided in Alabama City and was married to Miss Eula Howard. Prior to the opening of World War I, Joe P. Esslinger has been chosen Captain of the local National Guard of Alabama City. At the outbreak of World War I, the company volunteered into service and became famous as one of the strong links in the famous Rainbow Division in France. Captain Esslinger was rapidly advanced and became a major in the Rainbow Division. He was wounded in the war and afterwards passed away in Alabama City, very much beloved and respected. An attendant at the funeral of Major Esslinger, who was buried with military honors, reported that it was one of the largest funerals ever held in that section of the state. Joe P. Esslinger, Jr., volunteered into World War II, and was soon advanced to the position of captain, where he served until the end of the war. He was married to Miss Ola Mae Jackson of Gadsden, Alabama, and they now live in Hileah, Florida. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. B. T. Jackson of Ragland, Alabama. They have one daughter, Joanna Carol, who lives with them.

Captain Joe Percy Esslinger has succeeded well in his business in the vicinity of Miami, Florida, as a plastering contractor. He keeps up the family tradition of work and win.

Major Joe P. Esslinger and his second wife, had six children. One son, Billy, died in infancy. The survivors are Howard Esslinger, Captain Joe P. Esslinger, Jr., mentioned above, of Miami, Florida, Virginia, Lillian and Terry.

Another son of John W., Trice L. Esslinger, was married to Miss Elsie Morgan, they lived in West Huntsville, but he was killed in World War I.

Davis Gardiner Esslinger was the fourth son of John W. Esslinger and Cynthia Esslinger, born May 2, 1888, in the Little Cove, near Gurley in Madison County, Ala-

bama. On May 7th, 1913, he was married to Mary Emma Haskins of Winchester, Tennessee. He now owns and operates a nice grocery store on Rockwall Street, McKinney, Texas. Their children are as follows: Idella Mae, born June 11, 1914, in Huntsville, Alabama, was married to John Abner Brown of Jasper, Alabama, in November, 1941. Idella Mae has one child, Dorothy June Mullins, born November 23, 1935, by a former marriage. Her husband is a mechanic, her occupation is housewife, and she lives on First Avenue, Jasper, Alabama. A second daughter, Hazel Herdalo, born January 9, 1916, in Columbus, Georgia, was married to Earl Metz Kindle, of McKinney, Texas, June 30th, 1935. They have one child, Earl Michael, born April 4, 1945. Her husband is a projectionist and she a housewife at Rockwall street, McKinney, Texas. Gardiner's third daughter, Wilma Juanita, born March 16, 1920, in Huntsville, Alabama, married to Ilus Lee Daniel, of Jasper, Alabama, October 9th, 1939. She has one child, Brenda Lea, born August 15, 1946. Her occupation is a housewife, her husband is the prosperous owner of a grocery store on Jones Street, McKinney, Texas.

William Andrew Esslinger, now retired minister, and textile expert, was the oldest son of said John W. Esslinger, and Cynthia, his wife. He was married to Celia Mae Brooks, of Jackson County, Alabama, and now live at Route 4, Huntsville, Alabama. They have 7 children.

Gardiner Esslinger married Clara Mae Locke and his occupation is in the textile line as loom fixer, and he lives on Park Boulevard, Huntsville. His children are William Eugene, Helen Ruth, Wendell Ray and James Donald.

Helen Ruth has merited some recognition as a good scholar and has been awarded a scholarship as appears from the notice in one of the local papers.

"The Leon Lowenstine Foundation, Inc., announced the first three scholarship awards to students who have a parent or close relative employed by M. Lowenstein & Sons, Inc.

"The scholarships, which will provide $500.00 per year for a complete four-year college course, have been awarded to Helen Ruth Esslinger, Huntsville; James Walter Cleveland, Jr., Guntersville; and Joel Sherman Graham, Albertville.

"The selection was made on leadership ability, as well as scholastic averages. Major consideration in granting the awards, also included character and reputation, need of financial assistance, and record of the parent or close relative as an employee of a Lowenstein enterprise.

"Miss Esslinger is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gardiner S. Esslinger, 131 Park Boulevard. Her father has been an employee of the Huntsville Manufacturing Company since 1924. She will attend Berea College, Berea, Kentucky. During her senior year, she was awarded the DAR good citizeznship medal for 1948, and was salutatorian of the 1948 class at Joe Bradley School."

William A. Esslinger and his wife, Celia, lost three children in infancy, Andrew Tolbert, one of the twins, and Mattie Lou and a son, Charlie Hatfield. Their daughter, Miss Leotra Esslinger, is employed as a teacher in the schools of Huntsville and the suburbs, being much sought after as a teacher and highly successful, and prized by her patrons.

Their son, William Holbert, has attained some success in the textile occupation as cloth room overseer, and as assistant manager. The following notice appeared in a local paper, of date August 8, 1949:

"William Esslinger who came from Joe Bradley high school to the mill in 1930, has been promoted to assistant superintendent of the Saratoga Victory Mill at Albertville, and will take over duties there Monday. Member of a pioneer family of Huntsville Park, Mr. Esslinger's father, Will Esslinger, in 1900 operated the loom which produced the first cloth ever made at the local mill. William Esslinger, while attending Joe Bradley, was very active in sports, including tennis, in which he took several honors. He also did Scout work and won prizes in oratory while there. He went to the mill immediately after graduation, and has been employed there

continuously since that time. His duties have included six years in the cloth room, three years as clerk of the supply room, four years as overseer of the supply room, two years as personnel director, and one year as overseer of the cloth room. He has been an active member in the Baptist church all his life and is church treasurer at this time. His wife is the former Helen Scott of Huntsville Park, and they have a son, Glenn, aged nine. Mr. Esslinger's unique sense of humor is among the traits which have made him one of the most popular residents of the community. His promotion has brought from all who have ever worked under him at the mill an almost identical response of confidence in his future success, according to first hand reports today."

Carralinda Esslinger married Julius Jordan whose occupation is mechanic at the Huntsville Arsenal. They live at Route 1, Madison, and have two children, Celia Carol and Melanie Belle.

After the loss of his first wife, John W. Esslinger was married to Ela Clark in 1905. They have one daughter, Margaret, who was married on the 19th day of December, 1925, to Jim Kay Wilson, who is a successful business man and lives on Cherry Street in Huntsville, Ala.

A. J. Esslinger and Sarah Hunt had a son, Albert O. Esslinger who was married to Miss Sallie Watkins in 1882. Of their marriage two sons were born, Albert O. Jr., and Andrew J. About the close of World War I they left Madison County, Alabama, and now both reside in the city of Chattanooga, Tennessee.

The daughter of John Washington Esslinger and Synthia C. Esslinger was Emma Clara, who was married to Mr. Grady Culpepper, who lost his life in the service of the U. S. Navy in World War I, and whose son Read Culpepper, lives at East Lawn, Gadsden. As I am informed his wife's name is Debora. Their daughter, Bettie H. Culpepper, was married to Bob Lyons, having one child, Bobby Jean, about fifteen years of age, a good student in the graded schools of her city.

Mrs. Culpepper was again married to Mr. James G. Stogner, who is a skilled mechanic and they now live at Redstone Park. Their son, James G. Junior, is now 17 years of age and a good student.

Andrew J. Esslinger, Sr., and Sarah Hunt Esslinger, had three daughters, Elizabeth J. Esslinger, Sallie C. Esslinger and Huldah E. Esslinger.

Miss Elizabeth J. Esslinger was never married and died at middle age, in Hurricane Valley.

Huldah E. Esslinger was married in 1884 to George A. Crumrine, who was a farmer and carpenter. To them were born three children: Sarah who became the wife of Joe Turner, whose business as a mechanic, carried them to Detroit, Michigan, to reside.

A son, Willie Crumrine, who died before he reached the age of 21 years. Another daughter, the youngest, named Cora, became the wife of Mr. R. M. Glasgow, after which they moved into the State of Indiana.

The third daughter of Andrew J. and Sarah Hunt Esslinger, was Sallie C. Esslinger, who married in the year 1878 to J. Will Campbell. For some years they resided in Huntsville, Alabama, where Mr. Campbell conducted an agency; but subsequently he went into the employment of the Memphis and Charleston Railroad Company, made foreman of a section gang and moved to Brownsboro, Alabama, where they reared their family. At this work, Mr. Campbell was successful and efficient. When a larger rail was to be laid upon the said M. & C. R. R., all was prepared and a gold watch was to reward the first Section Boss to complete replacing of the old rails with the heavier. His crew won the watch. Just a few months after this victory, their hand car was struck before daylight one morning between Gurley and Brownsboro by a freight train, and Mr. Campbell was killed.

Mr. J. W. Campbell and Sallie C. Esslinger had the following sons and daughters: William A. Campbell, L. Hinds Campbell, Sallie L. Campbell, Johny Mae, and Charlie Sue, all of whom resided at their parents' home in Brownsboro, Alabama.

Their son, Hinds Campbell, also became a railroad man and was advancing rapidly in the ranks of railroad employees, becoming a conductor upon regular runs of freight trains at an early age, but, also lost his life in a railroad accident; yet a different kind of accident, being crushed between two freight cars. His wife was Miss Josie Copeland of Huntsville, Alabama; and they had one child at his death, Joe Campbell, who later moved with his mother to Oklahoma City, Okla., where he met and married Miss Reba Watkins, their present home. Joe is reported very steady, prosperous and regularly employed by a large oil company there.

A daughter, Sarah L. Campbell became the wife of George F. Sparks, of Chattanooga, Tennessee, where they and their daughter's family, now reside. Their daughter married Mr. Charles Wilbur Erb, of this city and became Mrs. Amanda Bernice Sparks Erb. They have two interesting children, Peggy Charlene, 19, who likes to teach, and Charles Wilbur, Jr., a lively boy of three years.

Another daughter, Charlie Sue Campbell, became the wife of William Hick Cook, who also, with most of their family reside in Chattanooga, Tenn. Though losing two sons, E. Grey Cook and Harry Hinds Cook, they still have the following children and grand children: Joseph Campbell Cook, of Chattanooga; Lois Cook Bishop of Sheffield, Ala., Charles Robert Cook, of Emporia, Kansas; L. Sue Cook Higgins, Chattanooga, and William Ashby Cook of the same city. They also have the following grand children living in Chattanooga, Frances Sue Cook Gamble, Mary Jane Cook, Ashley Cook and Sue Higgins, and Frederick Higgins, Jr., but a grand son, Joe Cook, lives in Red Bank, Tennessee.

William A. Campbell is 71 and now retired from active business, lives in Chattanooga, but had the sorrow of losing his lovable wife, Jennie P. Dewey Campbell. The names and residences of their children and grand children, are as follows, occupation and some particulars not being given in my information: Clyde W. Campbell,

H. LeRoy Campbell, Ernest G. Campbell, Sr., Katherine P. Campbell Hazelwood, are children residing in Chattanooga, while Robert Lee Campbell, resides in Knoxville, Tenn., and Sarah Mae Campbell Yarbrough resides in Orlando, Florida.

Grand children living in Knoxville are, Robert E. Campbell, Jr., James L. Campbell, Joseph W. Campbell, Michael Campbell and Daniel Andrew Campbell.

William A. Campbell has the following grand children living in Chattanooga, Tenn.: Norma Jean Campbell, Loyd C. Campbell, Carlton D. Campbell, Carol A. Campbell, Ernest G. Campbell, Jr., Patricia S. Campbell and William Barbee Hazelwood; other grand children being Barbara Sue Campbell, of Miami, Florfida; Kitty L. Osborn, and Marjorie Yarbrough, of Orlando, Fla.

Mamie Campbell became the wife of G. V. Dewey of 1417 Highland Park and Chattanooga, and they have the following descendants: Velma Lee Dewey, wife of J. J. Duncan, of Chattanooga, who has the following children: Mary Jane Duncan, Guy C. Duncan, Darlus Dean Duncan, now the wife of W. D. Ellis; Florence May Dewey, now Mrs. R. M. Hennessee, of Long Beach, California, where their son Ben Lee Hennessee also lives, also John C. Dewey of Highland Park Ave., and Fred J. Dewey, Bailey Ave., Chattanooga. Mamie Campbell Dewey has some children of a former marriage to Robert Honey, W. F. Honey, Bass Road, Chattanooga; with his two children, Bill Honey and Marylyn Honey; also Sarah Honey Fulmer, wife of Earl Fulmer, and their fine son, all on S. Bush, Chattanooga.

WILLIAM WRIGHT ESSLINGER

William W. Esslinger was the second son of our ancestor, Elizabeth Esslinger. In 1843, he was married to Martha Neal, who was the daughter of Eleanor Harrison Neal and John Neal. The father of Martha Neal was a relative of William Henry Harrison, one of the presidents of the United States. A cousin, Dr. Harrison, was a prominent citizen of east Madison, about 1868.

William W. Esslinger and his wife Martha, lived all their married lives, near Berkley, Alabama. Said Wil-

liam Wright Esslinger purchased land near the farming lands owned by his maternal uncle, William Wright, for whom he was named. Besides being a fine farmer Mr. Bill Esslinger, as he was called, was a carpenter of some ability and had what the writer considered, a wonderful lot of tools, such as chisels, augers, planes that made grooves and planes that made a tongue to fit the groove so that by hand, these men contrived to make the best of floors, and with adz and broadax, turned the long knot-free logs, into beautiful pieces of building timber.

Mrs. Martha Esslinger, his wife, was equally industrious. and a good manager. Both of them were devout Christians and their home was always open to the Circuit Riders, Presiding Elders of the Methodist Church, in fact, to all ministers.

It was in their home that every night, a chapter was read by grandfather, and a prayer said by him, or a visitor. Some day it is possible our people will resort again to family prayers. Of their large family, Andrew Jackson Esslinger was the eldest. The War between the States came at an unfortunate time for him, in that the year's schooling, for which he had been waiting, had to be abandoned, so that he could join the Volunteers and enter the war for the protection of States' Rights. The right to secede from the Union seemed to be one of the moving forces which led to the bloody war. His service in the Army was curtailed on account of illness. He went into the service in a company under Captain LeRoy M. Peevy. After being severely ill, at home, he became a member of Company "K", under Captain Thomas J. Taylor, of the Fourth Alabama Volunteers. His company was captured at Port Hudson, Louisiana, after a long siege, and the men were paroled home, except officers sent north to prison. About this time, the work of the Southern people was with loom and shoe making tools and utensils, most wonderful of which helped them to make many of their own clothes; the product of the hand-made looms which was wonderful wearing cloth, and most comfortable in the winter. The hardships of

the Southern people, during Reconstruction Days, have been recounted by writers more competent to set them out, yet in my early days, 1870 to 1880, much of this was still evident among the people. Industry and perseverance solved the problems. From the rich soil, wonderful crops, fruits and vegetables were grown; pigs and cattle roamed the woods and mountain and most fences were to keep cattle out, not to keep them in, as we now see them. The rail fences were everywhere; the writer, while still on the farm, has helped to repair these rail fences, and like Lincoln, help split the rails from the logs. The iron wedge, the tough wooden glut, and the maul, with long handle cut out of the hickory tree, are all fresh in memory, and the fragrance of those splitting logs remains clear.

My said grandparents lost a daughter, by death in infancy, but they reared a family of six boys and two girls, the men being uniformly of six feet to six feet, three inches, in height, and strong in proportion. This great height and strength was characteristic of the people of our ancestor, Elizabeth Wright Esslinger. There is a legend that few men could excel her, her daughters or her sisters, in the use of the ax, in getting woor or timber for the farm; that one of them accomplished the feat of standing in a half-bushel measure and raising to her shoulder, a sack containing two bushels of corn, a feat seldom performed by a man. All her family were above average size. The sons of William Wright and Martha Neal Esslinger were Andrew Jackson, James Wesley, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Randall, William Wright, Jr., and Jason Campbell Esslinger. Their daughters reaching maturity, were Elizabeth Beeson (Lizzie) Esslinger and Mary Catherine Esslinger. As I remember the feats of Mary Catherine Esslinger upon the loom, in the old kitchen at home, were remarkable and well-known. The warp and the woof had to be just so. Then the skeins had to be in place and the sleys harnessed up. Then the bobbin had to revolve in the shuttle as it was sent back and forth, back and forth, by hand the

long day through, as the piece of cloth took shape and grew and grew.

The elder daughter of Grand Father William Wright Esslinger and Martha Neal Esslinger, was Lizzie Esslinger, who, in 1872 was married to Mr. Robert J. Ellett, of the large Ellett family of the Big Cove, and Owens Cross Roads vicinity.

At the age of four and a half years, this wedding was impressed upon my memory, though only a brat. This wedding was at the home of Grand Father Esslinger, and the lamps were lighted, the clergyman officiating was Rev. J. T. Bartee, a local Methodist minister. His hair was black and wavy or curley. The lamp back of him on the mantel was too near the curls, so he looked back then stood very steady and away from the lamp. Mr. Ellett was very fine looking, known as an industrious young farmer, had black hair and mustache, so the couple had many compliments. His wife, famous for her industry and achievements with the carding and weaving machines, (looms), as well as spinning wheel and reel, was a fine strong brunette, tall and much to be admired. They had two daughters, Katie and Jacie and one son, Robert W. Ellett.

Katie Ellett lived to be grown and was married to Mr. Mack Guiger, of Owens Cross Roads, Alabama, but died young.

Robert W. Ellett was educated in the common schools of Madison County, Alabama, and attended college at A. P. I., from which college he was graduated. He returned to teaching in Madison County, where he has been successful with some of the most progressive schools in the county, especially at Owens X Roads and Gurley. For many years he has been steadily in charge of the Gurley high school and at the same time has purchased some desirable farming lands. The farmer principle is strong in him, derived from both his farming father and his mother, the daughter of a line of farmers. His wife is Mary Spivey Ellett, and she presides over one of the loveliest homes in Gurley, the town of pretty homes.

Mary was the daughter of Reuben M. Spivey, one of my most intimate boy-hood school mates.

Their younger daughter, Jacie, was married to Arthur Sublett, a prosperous farmer of Little Cove. They have three nice farms, one being a farm of 214 acres upon which all our father's family lived, until he sold it about the year 1913. Arthur and Jacie have a son, Orin, who was married to Miss Neida Patterson and a daughter Mildred Sublett Brawley, Judson Brawley's wife, and little grandson Orin Judson Brawley. All are farmers and live at home of the parents, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Sublett, near Berkley, Alabama.

The youngest daughter of William Wright Esslinger and Martha N. Esslinger, was Mary Catherine Esslinger, who was married to A. N. Glover, a young doctor, living in the Big Cove community, on the 9th day of July, 1881. They had but one child, a daughter, Minnie Lee Glover, who was married to Chester Lee Herrin about 1904. They had four children, Harold C. Herrin, Claude U. Herrin, Mary Louise Herrin and James Edward Herrin.

Harold C. Herrin was married to Miss Margaret Whiteside of Shelbyville, Tennessee. They live in Huntsville and he is a postal employee and mail carrier.

Mary Louise Herrin was employed for many years in some of the local banks, where she was esteemed and very efficient. She married D. S. Wallace of Columbus, Georgia, where he is foreman in the shop of a large auto company.

Her mother, Mrs. Minnie Lee Glover, makes her home with them.

Claude U. Herrin was married in Huntsville, Alabama, to Miss Helen E. Venable. He is assistant chief of the Huntsville Fire Department, being very popular with his associates. His oldest son is James Nolan, 16, and is a junior in the Huntsville high school, where his second son, Joe Donald, is a sophomore. The boys are doing well in school and have scores of friends. Their only daughter is Barbara Jean, five years old, and all reside in Huntsville, Alabama.

One son of Mrs. Herrin is James Edward Herrin, who married Miss Etta Pinion of Huntsville, Alabama. They now live in Rome, Georgia, where he is a skillful and successful pipe fitter. They have three children, Lawrence Edward, seventeen years old, in a Georgia high school; Gene Wallace, fifteen years old, in school, and a daughter, Mary Ann, a school girl of eleven years.

In our preliminary suggestion of this list, or booklet, we spoke of the progress and building up of Madison County by this family of farmers. Primarily we begin with Andrew Jackson Esslinger, Jr.,son of W. W. and Martha, b. 1844, d. 1929, who, a returned soldier in questionable health, at the close of the War between the States, at once took up the business of farming, with his father, in the eastern part of the county. Into this school district came Catherine M. Fennell, a daughter of Dr. J. W. Fennell, who formerly owned sixty slaves and a thousand acres of land, on the Tennessee River west of Guntersville, in Marshall County. She was graduated from a school in Washington, about the outbreak of the War. It would take more space here to discuss all her lovable traits and local popularity. To the returned soldier, she appeared the embodiment of everything lovely and desirable. She had auburn hair. He had black hair, dark eyes and was a handsome brunette.

This Catherine M. Fennell, wife of A. J. Esslinger, Jr. was the mother of this writer, in whose care some of her wartime diaries are kept and treasured. In January, 1864, near the middle of the war between the States, her father Dr. Jas. W. Fennell died, leaving them with untried problems of managing his large farm, the negroes and livestock.

The diary shows how first one kind of property was taken, then another by the enemy, as they came up the river on gunboats and went out foraging. Cotton was taken, 100 bales, when the price was $1.00 per pound in gold. Stock was driven off, a large clay-bank horse, in exchange, they named Gunboat was left, all ribs and angles. I saw him in 1875. Shots from 25 pound cannon,

on gunboats, were fired at the house, but none happened to burn the house, one half mile south of the river. One of these round bombs, properly emptied, was given my mother, and for years was in our front yard, being used part of the time as a weight to hold a front gate shut.

Her brother, Dr. William Fennell, was graduated from a Medical College in Washington, joined 9th Alabama Infantry and was sent to Virginia, where he became field surgeon of the regiment, as I am told with some rank, possibly Captain. In the great battle of Gaines' Mills, he led a charge, in the face of cannon and musket fire to capture a battery of fourteen guns, with the enemy driven into the field beyond.

In Pollard's Lost Cause, page 287, the charge is given in part, thus:

"With fierce grandeur the charge swept on. On the right the troops pressed steadily forward, unchecked by the terrific fire from the triple lines of infantry upon the hill, and the cannon on both sides of the river, which burst upon them as they emerged on the plain."

It was like the "Charge of the Light Brigade":

"Cannon to the right of them,
Cannon to the left of them,
Volley'd and thunder'd,
* * * *
Into the Jaws of Death,
Rode the Six Hundred."

Many of the officers of the regiment had been shot down (Pollard's Lost Cause, page 288 and foot-notes), but the brave Confederates fought on. Captain Will Fennell, seeing the scarcity of officers, shouted "Company, Charge", "Follow Me," and led that gallant charge up and over that line of death dealing intrenchments on the crest of the hill, capturing every cannon, destroying all resistance, giving to the South a great victory, but Captain William Fennell, leading the charge fell, seriously wounded, but lived to fight again. His wounds disqualified him for Infantry service, so upon recovery he raised a company for Cavalry service and was attached to Rus-

sell's 4th Alabama Cavalry, Wheeler's Division.

Later in the war, Captain Fennell, with his brother, Wattie Fennell, was captured and sent to Johnson's Island, where he was many months without hearing from his people at home.

After the War, he lived in Marshall County, practicing Medicine and farming; then, was induced to join a cousin John Fennell, a druggist in business at Holly Springs, Mississippi, and practice medicine in that community. His success was remarkable. Then, in the year 1878, the dreaded yellow fever epidemic, with its horrors and frenzied effect upon the people, scourged Holly Spring and other towns, many fled. Dr. Fennell and the devoted druggist could have fled to safety, but they stayed with the suffering people and helped them to the bitter end. Uncle William and Cousin John both contracted yellow fever and died.

In the Episcopal Church in Holly Springs, Miss., I was told by a lady from Huntsville, the mother-in-law of its rector, some ten years ago, that a beautiful window is dedicated to the Memory of Dr. William Fennell, who gave his life to help his people.

Another brother of Mother "Cassie Fennell" Esslinger was Dr. I. Wattie Fennell, who was attending the same Medical College in the City of Washington, before his final graduation; when a sharp battle occurred; so his first surgical practice was dressing the wounds of the enemy.

Dr. Wattie Fennell enlisted in the 42nd, Tennessee Infantry, but in July of that year, at Baker's Creek in Mississippi, he was captured by the Federals and started North on the "Star of the West", but before reaching Memphis, he jumped overboard into the Mississippi River and swam to the Southern shore. He re-entered service of the South and was again captured and being official, was sent to languish in Camp Douglass, in Chicago. Reading of the great fire in Chicago, in 1871, memories of his suffering caused him to show he felt like it was just a part of retaliation, for which he felt no

sympathy and expressed none for the cruel city. Occurring at this camp, another prisoner told us of an amusing incident in which our red-headed Dr. Wattie Fennell figured there. A certain guard, pompous and over-bearing carried a stick while marching lines of prisoners for exercise, or other purpose, feeling free to tap a prisoner with it, if out of line, or slow, so he thought it best. One day Dr. Fennell told the others, "If he hits me with that cane, I am going to give him a whipping." So, on a march, he was ordered to step up, with a prod of the stick added. That guard should have known better than to enrage a red-headed Southerner. Uncle Wattie doubled his fist, gave a well packed punch to his jaw and down he came. Then, he jumped on him, took that stick, and wore him out. The guard took a good beating. Then he said to the other guards, "Why did you let that Little Johnnie beat me up?" The guards told him, he deserved all he got, for he had no right or orders to strike a prisoner.

When I was 8 to 10 years of age, I often saw by red-headed, blonde Uncles Willie and Watt, so I can truthfully say they were fine looking, educated and lovable men.

Uncle Wattie lived for years to practice medicine, largely in Marshall county, and resided for years at Arab, in that county.

The third brother, Johnnie, was under age, but like his brothers, volunteered and joined Company "F" in 8th Confederate Cavalry, of which Captain Sam Henry was in command.

To hasten with our story of the family, license was procured December 26, 1866 at Guntersville by the name in old style as A. J. Efslinger, and on the 27th day of December, 1866, they were married in Marshall County.

About the second year of their married life, they lived on the Lee place near Whitesburg, in Pond Beat, where he continued to farm. The great house occupied by them, and also occupied by Dr. Wattie Fennell, a few years afterward, is the same large house now used as headquarters for a part of the U. S. Arsenal activities,

and contains that wonderful winding staircase in the front hall, of walnut and so light and strong.

Being the oldest son of Andrew J. Esslinger, Jr., and Cassie Fennell Esslinger. I remember when the family moved back to the eastern part of the county, that had been the home of Andrew, Jr., often called Uncle Drewsie. The crossing of Flint River was at Ashburn's Ford, where the bridge now spans the river,(near Elon. Date was 1872.

Away from the Ponds, the health of the family was better, in fact, was almost perfect. My memory also carries the impression of what a good doctor all of us considered Miss Cassie. Her father had been Dr. J. W. Fennell, and she dosed out quinine and calomel, just like a physician, for all the family and farm hands, as well as their families.

For a very few years, Uncle Drewsie, rented land on the Allison Place, moving into the Big House, after Aunt Nancy Allison had died, but, first living a year in the overseer's house.

Though, only four to seven years of age, my recollection is quite clear of the early years of my father, as he rented land. The Cumberland Church named "Shiloh", was off the Allison Place, and at this church, about 1874, I heard Rev. Dr. Ross, of the First Presbyterian Church, in Huntsville. A few years later, the spire was blown off his church in a general tempest or straight wind storm, not a cyclone.

At "Shiloh Church" about 1874, the local Grange or Patrons of Husbandry, was organized, being so far as I can remember the first beneficial club for farmers. A few years later, the Farmers' Alliance was organized, all over the South, and no doubt promoted benefits for the small farmers, both social and financial. So strong was this organization, that their chosen candidate for Governor, Col. R. F. Kolb, came near being elected. My father was at one time president of the Alliance for Madison County. No doubt his circulating among the farmers led to his being chosen by the Democrats in 1892, as their nominee for Tax Collector of the County,

to which office he was elected in 1892 and served four years. At that State election, Judge Thomas J. Taylor, was again re-elected Judge of Probate Court, but passed away before his term had expired. Dr. Francisco Rice, was appointed by the Governor to be such Judge, but he also passed away before the term was filled. Judge S. M. Stewart filled out the remainder of the term as Judge. Was elected again, then as I remember re-nominated for another term without opposition.

After being near "Shiloh" on the Allison Farm, a few years, my parents bought a farm of 215 acres, being sold as the farm belonging to the estate of Thomas A. Wright, deceased. My impression is that one of the Wrights had married a Miss Peevey, a sister of Capt. LeRoy M. Peevey, residents of West Clinton Street in Huntsville. One of his sisters, a Mrs. Martin from Mooresville, visited this house while we lived there, about sixty years ago, and told us she had been married in a certain room there FIFTY years before that date; this indicating that the main building is almost or quite and hundred and fifty years old. When my parents bought the place, two additions had been made to the originally grand one and one-half story log house; one addition of logs, and the other and latest a frame and plaster job, making one cool room, (winter and summer). The first addition had been covered with hand made knot-less cedar shingles, which I helped re-place with hand-made poplar shingles, drawn on the ground by Mr. Volney Glass, about fifty years later, the year that Bill Jack's uncle B. F. (Dock) Collier got married to Miss Toleta Brazelton.

Here, near old Berkley (at Norment's) and new Berkley, at Esslinger's Store, and Norment's New Store, our family was reared, there being only three little boys at the time. The house had been occupied the years before by father of Mr. Ike Cobb, whose mother was "Aunt Lou Medlin", as I recollect, not verified.

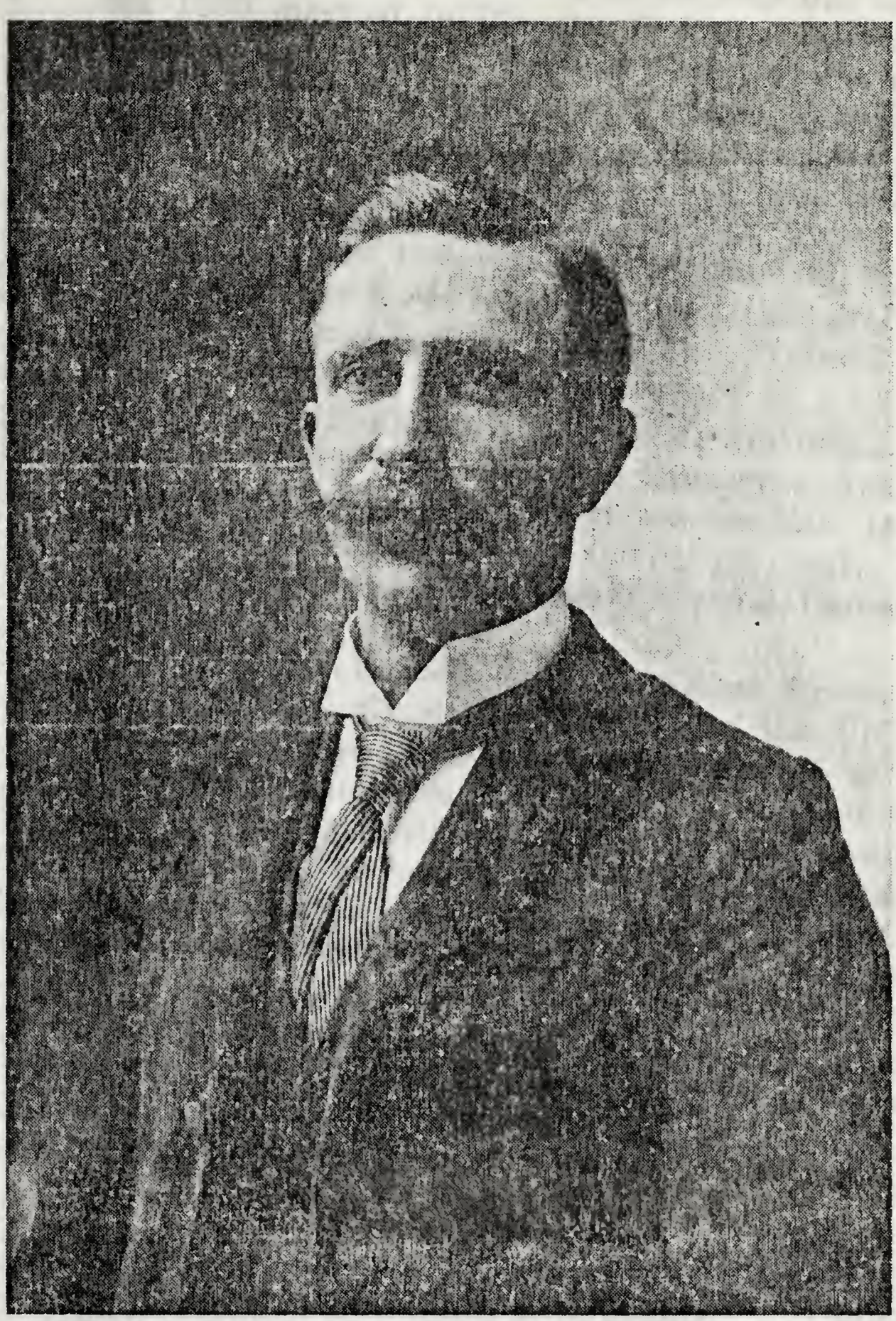
Here our family was reared. There were six boys and one daughter, the youngest of the seven. By name they were William Francis (ye scribe), James Houston, Earnest Alva, Andrew Watkins (Andrew the 7th), Wade Hampton and Arthur Graham Esslinger. The baby girl was Martha Matilda Esslinger, named Martha for Grand Ma, Martha Harrison Neel, upon one side and Matilda Allison Fennell, upon the other; Neel and Harrison English and Scotch; while Allison was Irish (Grand Ma, Matilda was born in Dublin, Ireland) Fennell, French, from the family of that name in Virginia, relatives of Captain John P. Fennell, of that date.

After some attendance at Country Schools, she, in the care of her two aunts, Bell F. Neill and Mary J. Graham, attended a Good School in Nashville. Afterward she chose to study the mercantile business, in which she became very successful. This business requiring her to be in Helena, Ark., there she met Mr. Marion D. Prewett, to whom she was married and they continued to reside in Helena. Mr. Prewett was a well known stock dealer, farmer and later merchant. A disastrous fire, at his surburban store, caused them serious loss. They disposed of their pretty cottage and still lived in Helena.

Their only child, a son, Marion D. Prewett, Jr., was a good student, graduated from the local schools and became a commercial artist of much promise at Lord's Emporium, in the City of New York. His future seemed bright, even a brilliant future seemed to open before him, but, alas! the usual auto accident caused his death, he being struck by a taxi driver while crossing a street in a heavy fog and rainstorm, in that city.

After the death of her son and later of her husband Mr. Prewett, Mattie Matilda returned to Huntsville, Ala. Here she met Mr. James T. Uptain, an energetic Post Office employee, later a farmer and shoe dealer, well known as a high-toned Christian gentleman and they were married in Huntsville, Alabama, where they now reside in a well kept brick house of their own.

The eldest son was William Francis Esslinger, (born



W. F. ESSLINGER

At age of 30

January 9th, 1868) who was, on the 14th day of December 1899 married to Blanche Chandler Russell at the home of her father, I. P. Russell, Sr., who was an extensive farmer, and breeder and trainer of fine harness horses, in Jackson County, Ala., near Stevenson. She was a singer of some note, and taught music after being graduated from Centenary College, Athens, Tenn., and attending Peabody Conservatory of Music in Baltimore, Maryland. Her mother was Martha Daniel McCullough wed to Mr. Russell at her home, The Natural Bridge House, Lookout Mountain, Tennessee.

Both W. F. Esslinger and his wife are living. He is engaged in the practice of law in Huntsville, Ala., where he was admitted to the bar on November 25th, 1895, and actively entered the practice January 1st, 1897. In term of 1888-89 he attended National Normal University at Lebanon, Ohio.

At this term, Cordell Hull, of Willow Grove, Tenn., and his brother, Orestus Hull, attended the University, in Lebanon, Ohio, their first experience off at school. Cordell was taking his first course in law, but he was interested in the Tariff Question, and in my estimation became one of the best authorities on Tariffs and international agreements in the United States. We had rooms on the second floor of Enstian 15, our old dormitory.

In a letter to Mr. Hull, Secretary of State, I inquired of him, if he remembered the incident, when in retaliation for some trick upon me, I had used his cane squirt gun to drench him with water as he went down the steps, His reply, as follows:

September 25, 1933.

"Dear Mr. Esslinger: I much appreciate your cordial and interesting letter of the 20th instant. . . . I very well recall our agreeable association. I am much interested in your reminiscences, which I remember to be absolutely correct. Some of these days, I hope to see something of you. Again my thanks, and best regards.

Sincerely yours,
Cordell Hull."

Hon. Frank Esslinger,
Huntsville, Alabama."

The eldest of their children is Russell Jackson Esslinger who now resides at Pennside, in the city of Reading, Pa. He received his LL.B. degree at the University of Alabama in 1921, and practiced in Alabama, later became a professional musician in New York City, and now is an active real estate analyst and agent for both fire and life insurance. Some honors have been his as excelling in the amount of business secured for his life insurance company, within a given time, at one time entitling him to the second place in that respect, to any in the United States. He was married to Miss Virginia Hangen, and they have three daughters. They are as follows:

Miriam Esslinger, seventeen years of age, who has had splendid training in vocal and instrumental music;

Joan Esslinger, twelve years of age, who is a fine singer, and last;

Kay Esslinger, born October 29, 1939, and a wonderful singer for her age.

He had almost finished his scientific course at the University of Alabama; which he discontinued to take the Course in Law. Before he selected Reading, Penn., as his home, he had engaged in business in New York City. With his successful Insurance business in Reading and Philadelphia, he has been in demand as an "Estate Analyst." He served as President of the Rotary Club of Reading, Penn., 1939-1940. He was chosen President of the Reading Life Underwriters' Association 1937-1948, and Director of the Pennsylvania Underwriters' Association for 1948-1949. It is well remembered how he followed his home training in Piano and Vocal Music, while at the University of Alabama, being for years a leader in the Glee Club of the University, training under "Uncle Tom Garner." The music of his mandolin was often sought in the string bands.

His wife Virginia (Ginny) Hangen was the daughter of the proprietor of the leading Music Store, of Reading,

and was an accomplished Musician; being graduated from the Comb's Conservatory of Music in Philadelphia. Therefore it is not to be surprised that all three of their daughters are what to the writer seems to be most wonderful youth musicians. Our delight has been to hear Virginia play for them on the piano, while Russell and his three talented girls formed a quartet and sang most delightful, and often difficult, selections of Classic and Modern Music. Miss Miriam the eldest daughter sings solos in the churches of Reading and plays beautifully in public. The singing of Joan and Kay is pronounced wonderful.

Nell Esslinger, their daughter, received her certificate in voice at Agnes Scott College, achieving the vocal scholarship two consecutive years. She then studied voice three years in New York City, under Madame Rider-Kelsey, Herbert Witherspoon and Amy Ellerman Cox, and was coached by John Barnes Wells and Charles Baker. Her secular solo work, radio WMAQ, Chicago, Illinois, "The House by the Side of the Road."

WRNY, New York, N. Y.—Concert Songs.

WNYC, New York, N. Y.—Old Southern Melodies.

WKBQ, New York, N. Y.—American Composers.

WABC, New York, N. Y.—"With Mr. Naftzger's Morning Hour"

WSB, Atlanta, Georgia—Authentic Negro Spirituals

WSUN, St. Petersburg, Fla.—Recital Songs.

WBRC, Birmingham, Alabama—German Leider.

WBHP, Huntsville, Alabama—Varied Programs.

Theatrical

Capitol Theatre, "Roxy's Gang"—New York, N.Y.

Japanese Garden, 99th Street Theatre—New York, N.Y.

Winter Garden—New York, N.Y.

Geo. M. Cohen Theatre, "Adrienne" Musical Comedy—New York, N.Y.

Carnegie Hall Chambers, Recital—New York, N.Y.

Academy of Music, "Pitti Sing" on "The Mikado" — Brooklyn, N. Y.

Waldorf Astoria, Euterpe Club, Southern Club, etc. — New York, N. Y.

Y.M.C.A. Hotel, Two Recitals—Chicago, Ill.

Monte Carlo Operatic Quartet—Chicago, Ill.

Her hotel work also includes engagements for the season at the Battery Park Inn, and Kenilworth Inn, Asheville, N. C., and the Tutwiler Hotel, Birmingham, Alabama; and her recital work includes many other appearances.

She received the following awards:

National Federation of Music Clubs Contests;

First place in the Dixie District Artists Contest, 1926.

First place in Dixie District, both Students and Artists Contests in 1937.

Silver Cup for second place Contralto, National Sesiquicentennial contest at Philadelphia.

First place in New York State Assembly, Vocal Contest, (without a single adverse criticism), 1925.

First Ranking woman radio announcer, contest held at WABC, New York, N. Y.

Vocal Scholarship two years at Agnes Scott College, Decatur, Ga.

Miss Esslinger has done extensive work as a Church and Oratorio Soloist, several years of teaching, and some directing. She now (1950) directs the Huntsville Music Study Club, The Male Chorus, and the Tri-Choral of Huntsville.

William Francis Esslinger, Jr. ,b. May 20th, 1907, was graduated in Law from the University of Alabama June, 1927, and practised law in Huntsville until during the World War II, he was appointed counsel to the Director of Rent Control for the local district and upon this same work was sent to Miami, Florida, where he now lives. When his connection with the Rent Control was ended, he became acquainted with some of the lawyers in Miami who found out that he would work, and that he was a good lawyer, so they never would let him come back to work in Alabama. He was made a joint partner with Mr. Rasco, February 1, 1946, and in 1947 they took in

Mr. Joe Brion, so that the firm is now Rasco, Esslinger, and Brion, on Lincoln Road, Miami Beach. He takes great pride in the 14 trophies won by him as an expert tennis player. Many of them secured in Alabama, but he still delights in a good game of tennis, and is welcome visitor to many of the tennis clubs in and around his Florida home. September 29, 1932, he was married to Anna Mae Linthicum in Huntsville, Alabama, by Rev. W. G. Henry, Sr. His wife being expert in short-hand and typewriting, gave valuable assistance to him in the early days of his practice. They have two children, Ann Lynn Esslinger, born Sept. 4, 1935, and one of the most remarkably good children we have heard of. She is industrious and most affable at all times. Susan Angie Esslinger, born April 16, 1942, in Huntsville, Alabama, is like her sister Lynn, very fond of swimming and other outdoor sports. They are school girls, and as such are members of the various athletic clubs and young peoples societies of Coral Gables, Florida, their home.

Blanche Esslinger Dorris received a B.S. degree from Huntington College, Montgomery, Ala., and a certificate in Hospital Dietetics from Touro Infirmary, New Orleans, La., and then returned to Huntington and managed the college tea-room-cafeteria at her Alma Mater. Following several years in commercial food and hospital work in Chicago and in Pennsylvania, she became Dietitian-Manager of the Redstone Arsenal Restaurant, Huntsville, Ala., in 1942, and remained until the liquidation of that business. She is also an excellent amateur musician, both vocal and instrumental.

In May 1948 she was married to Royce H. Dorris, Analytical Chemist, T.V.A., Florence, Ala. Mr. Dorris has his B.S. degree from Ouachita College, Arkadelphia, Ark. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Dorris, Wichita, Kansas, formerly of Arkansas and Kentucky. Mr. and Mrs. Royce H. Dorris now reside in Florence, Alabama.

James Houston Esslinger was the second son of said Andrew J. Esslinger and Catherine Margaret Fennell

and was a graduate of the Winchester Normal School. He taught singing in many locations with Mr. Byrom Miller; taught school in Tennessee and in Gurley, Alabama, and was married to Nola K. Sullivan in 1896 and was in the mercantile business in Gurley. Later he and his family moved to Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, where he taught and helped establish an Agricultural School, of which he was chosen president, and later traveled in the interest of a fraternal order.

His first wife was Nola Sullivan Esslinger, who died in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, leaving him with five children of tender age. All were tenderly cared for by the sister of his deceased wife, Dora Sullivan. She finally consented to marry him and became the step mother as well as aunt of the five children. To see how well she filled the place and how her undertaking was appreciated, you have only to ask one, anyone of the children, of whom all survive except Mabel Esslinger, who passed away after giving much service and secretarial work to our headquarters in Washington, during World War II.

After the marriage of J. H. Esslinger and Dora Sullivan Esslinger, they continued to reside in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, until his death, where she is still teaching. To them were born two children, who are now about grown, but unmarried. Elsie Mildred Esslinger, their daughter, is working as a secretary in Tulsa Oklahoma, while Fred W. Esslinger, their son, is engaged as an accountant in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma.

Her surviving step-children are married and reside as follows: Cecil Francis Esslinger is a credit manager of Continental Oil Company, Ponca City, Oklahoma, his wife being Esther Radant Esslinger and their only child, a son of fifteen years, Jack Houston Esslinger, all live in Ponca City, Oklahoma.

The second son, Charles A. Esslinger, his wife Verna Montgomery and their son, aged thirteen years, live in Stillwater, Oklahoma. He is at present football coach at A. & M. College. His reputation as such coach is national. Their son, Charles Edwin Esslinger, 13, lives with them.

The third son is William Houston Esslinger, whose wife is Eileen Crowley, is an Hydraulic engineer in the service of the U. S. Government, Madden Dam, Panama Canal, at Pedro Miguel, Canal Zone.

Said Houston and Eileen have three children, of whom two attend school in the Canal Zone. Andrew Dennis Esslinger, fourteen, is their eldest son; Joel Esslinger, ten years of age, is their second, and their youngest child is Mary Ellen Esslinger, aged five years, and all live at Pedro Miguel, Canal Zone.

The surviving daughter, a graduate of A. & M. College, Stillwater, Okla., is Nola Sullivan Esslinger Wilson, Jr., of Huntsville, Alabama, wife of Thomas Bard Wilson, an interior decorator and plasterer contractor, well known in Huntsville, as a practical and skillful workman.

Their third son, Ernest Alva Esslinger, was like his brothers a farmer and was very fond of stock. He took great delight in livestock of every kind, training and breaking to work, etc. He was married to Miss Lizzie Collier of Berkley, Alabama, and they had one son, who is still living in Madison county. After the death of his first wife, he was married to Miss Patty Spivey, who lived near Maysville, Ala., but he was stricken with flu and died on October 11, 1918. Soon after his death Mrs. Patty Spivey Esslinger died.

Alva's only son, William Jackson Esslinger, lives at Berkley near Flint River, in Madison County, Alabama, and was married to Miss Edna Cobb. In addition to his farming operations, "Bill Jack" is a practical machinist and has exercised his love of carpentry by building several houses.

Andrew Watkins Esslinger was their fourth son and lives in Cameron, Texas. His wife was Emma C. Green, of Madison County, Ala. They have several children, the eldest of which is Andrew W. Esslinger, Jr., a prominent and successful groceryman of Cameron, Texas. His wife was Elenor Hensley of Texas, who has been of much assistance to him in his growing business. They have two children, their eldest being Patsy who is twen-

ty years of age, and like her sister Sarah, aged fourteen, attends school regularly and makes excellent grades. Patsy attends the T. S. C. W. at Denton, Texas. Sarah is a good scholar, plays in the band and takes piano, and always has an "A" grade.

Their son, Francis A. Esslinger is in the service of the United States Army and his wife was Lula Simms of LaGrange, Georgia. They have two sons, Richard, aged five, and Robert, aged three.

Their son Robert W. Esslinger lives at Fort Worth, Texas and is a moulder. He married Alyne ———— of Fort Worth, Texas.

Their daughter, Cornelia E. Esslinger married Harry W. Weathersby of Houston, Texas, where they now reside and he conducts his business as an electrician. They have one son (adopted), Dean Weathersby, thirteen years of age.

Margarete Christine (b. January 12, 1904), finished high school at Cameron, Texas, High School, attended San Marcus Teachers' College, and taught some. Was married to W. W. Gary, at San Marcus, who is agent for Magnolia Oil Company. J. W., their oldest son, graduated with highest honors at San Marcus High School, and is now in Rice Institute, in Houston. The twins, Andrew and Billy, are great sports. At sixteen, they play football and golf and are good at both.

Erle H. Esslinger, Sr., of Fort Worth, Texas, a molder, was married to Saringa Janey of Granger, Texas. They have two children, Erle H. Esslinger, Jr., who married Margaret Matula, was graduated from the Texas A. & M. College in 1948 and is employed by Sun Oil Company as assistant geologist. Helen Esslinger, who is teaching in LaGrange, Texas.

Wade Hampton Esslinger was born February 27, 1877 in Madison County, Alabama, and attended school in Alabama and subsequently studied medicine in Mobile, Alabama. He afterwards studied medicine at Vanderbilt University, and Sewanee, Tennessee. From one of these places he was graduated. He was a strong, dark

haired man and had much experience on the farm, like most boys of that date. He was married March 12th, 1903, to Miss Ethel M. Green, in Madison County, Alabama, and had three children. He entered the medical service in World War I and served until the end of the war, or until he was discharged after a spell of pneumonia. He practised medicine at Meridianville, Alabama; Woodville, Alabama; Larkinsville, Alabama; and New Market, Alabama. They lived at New Market, Alabama, when he went on a visit to Broken Arrow, Oklahoma in 1918, took flu and died, but was returned to Alabama for burial, and interred a few days before the Armistice was signed. His monument was one of the Woodmen of the World and is in the Esslinger home cemetery. His wife died a few years afterwards and her remains were placed by him. His son, Orville H. Esslinger now lives near Plevna, Alabama, and is a prominent farmer, being happy in the ranks of all the farmers our family has furnished. He was married to Virginia Mae Walker, May 20, 1930, and they have two lovely daughters, now in school and just budding into womanhood. One is Mary Virginia Esslinger who is interested in music and does well in school. Betty Hampton is the younger daughter and is very pleasantly known and loved, is studious and does well in everything. Virginia Mae, his wife, has been very helpful to him and has taught school many sessions at the urge of the school authorities, when she would have preferred to remain at home. They continue to draft her for teaching, so she reluctantly helps in the work so pleasant to her when she was younger.

Phoebe Mae Esslinger, niece of the writer, and sister of Orville H. Esslinger, was married May 7, 1937, to Carmen M. Russell, of Jackson County, Alabama, a cousin of Blanche Russell Esslinger, wife of the writer, and they are in business in Huntsville, Alabama, being among the leading market and grocery concerns of the city. She taught school and is very popular. Mr. Russell has made a success of his business and numbers his friends among

all he meets. They have two children, their daughter is named Carmen and their son is named Wade.

Edith Margaret Esslinger, youngest child of Wade Hampton Esslinger and his wife Ethel, after leaving school was married to Mr. Julian C. Letcher on the 17th day of June, 1938. Their home is in Birmingham and Mr. Letcher is a very successful insurance agent. They have one child, a daughter named Judy, who like her mother, is very beautiful, with dark eyes, black hair and red cheeks.

Arthur Graham Esslinger was the youngest son of Andrew J. and Catherine M. Fennell Esslinger.

He was the best educated of any man in the family, his brothers contended, having a Certificate of Graduation from a business college, an A.B. degree from Men's College in Birmingham (of which Bishop J. H. McCoy was then president) and the degree of Ll.B. from the University of Alabama. His years in college were alternated with years of teaching, having taught in Madison County and other counties in Alabama, including Marengo County. He was married to Miss Annie Laurie Martin, who was teaching in a high school in Birmingham, Alabama. Miss Annie Laurie came from a family of many girls and two or three brothers. It was a remarkable family of teachers.

To them were born two girls, Ann Martin and Catherine Neal Esslinger. Both girls were graduated from high school in Fairfield, Alabama, and attend college at A.P.I. in Auburn, Alabama, from which they have or will have degrees conferred upon them, following their excellent work.

During the first World War Arthur volunteered and went to a camp in Georgia, but was rejected for service for overweight. He again volunteered and served until the end of World War I.

Before his entering military service, he had held a responsible position with the Tennessee Coal and Iron Company, as Law and Claim Agent, being in charge of

the safety services of the company.

Subsequently, he entered the active practice of law and had the City of Fairfield incorporated. He became the partner of Mr. Pratt, the mayor of Fairfield and was active in the practice of law until his death on December first, 1941.

His widow, Mrs. Annie Laurie Esslinger, is teaching in and around Birmingham, holding splendid positions, and is prominent in all civic, charitable and religious activities of the community.

Having lost his first wife, Catherine Margaret Fennell Esslinger, by pneumoniaa, October 9th, 1884, Andrew J. Esslinger, (Cousin Drewsie), was married to Miss Margaret Lucinda Hodges, on the twenty-fourth day of December, 1885. Her great heart took over then a family of six boys, ages from 17 years down to five years and one little girl, Mattie Matilda, aged 3 years. The writer was the oldest boy. The farm-house needed her. She was made welcome. Time and space forbids that I undertake to relate even a part of all her coming meant to the family. From a motherless home it was transformed into a home of happiness. If any woman ever filled the place as step-mother better than Mother Margaret Lucinda did, it has never been my good fortune to hear of it. How bravely she undertook the duties of a helper and guide for the entire family; something before which an older housewife might have quailed! Badly needed, she came to be mother, housewife, guide, and friend. The children rejoiced when we heard she was coming. We welcomed her. We obeyed her. It was always a joy to follow her directions and admonitions for we loved her. It is too deep to write. Love and appreciation are preserved in the heart and memory inexpressible.

Of this marriage there were five children. Two little girls Ethel and Julia died in infancy, neither reaching school age. Their eldest daughter was Bessie Esslinger who was married to James I. Cobb on the 5th day of No-

vember, 1913. Bessie and her husband James were prosperous farmers in the Berkley neighborhood of Madison County, where they had many friends and were active in all church and social activities. She died, leaving no children. Mr. James I. Cobb was later married to Miss Frances Murphy, a popular school teacher of Huntsville, and they still live upon his farms in the Berkley section, and have a son, James I. Cobb, Jr., less than a year of age.

Their second daughter, Catherine Margaret, was married to David M. Layman on January 10th, 1916. Their daughter, Maxine Layman, became the wife of John T. Berry, a skillful metal worker. They now live in the city of Chattanooga, Tenn., and have one child, Barbara Jill.

They had a son, David M. Jr., who made his special study of mechanics. Until World War II, he had a position with a firm here handling machinery. His services being appraised as that of a man far beyond his age. Though not of age, he was sent to India as radio operator upon the airplanes. He was killed in an airplane accident somewhere in India. His body now rests in the Soldier's Division of Maple Hill Cemetery. His death was a great blow to his mother, but she rallied and sought to forget her grief in service to other boys and girls. She lost two girls, Nannie Margaret and Kathryn Waites, in infancy. Mrs. Catherine Layman has had wide experience in the schools of Huntsville and the surburbs. Her ability to interest and advance her pupils has been recognized so that she is given the credit of being one of the best, if not the best, primary teacher in all the local schools.

Their son, Thomas Hodges Esslinger became a telegraph operator, and when he volunteered in World War I, he was assigned to wireless service upon the ships of the United States Navy and Commerce. A remarkable incident of his service was that upon the first trip across the Atlantic, the ship Santa Maria, an oil tanker, was torpedoed and sunk off the coast of Ireland. The time was about noon and not one of those on the ship ever saw the submarine. Fortunately the ship sank slowly and the

crew was taken off by other ships, sailing near, at the time. For years he possessed a piece of the torpedo, larger than a watch.

In 1921, Thomas Hodges Esslinger was married to Miss Eileen Sherrill, a young lady, much beloved and devoted to her church and social activities. They have lived in Huntsville and in Sheffield, Alabama, since their marriage, he being a valued employee of the Southern Railroad Co. They have 2 daughters and 2 grandchildren. Their eldest daughter, Winifred Aileen, was married in the year 1942, to George Milton Beason. During World War No. II, Mr. Beason served in the Army in various Western posts. He is a mechanic of considerable experience and ability.

Their two sons, George, the older and Tommie, the younger son, reside with their parents in Huntsville, Alabama, and are a great source of delight to their grandparents and great-grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. S. N. Sherrill.

Their second daughter, Jane, attended school at Auburn, after graduating from the high school in Sheffield, Alabama. She secured a position of trust and profit with the City Electric Light Company, where she is still employed. She was married to Mr. William Harris, in Huntsville, in July, 1949, and they now reside in Huntsville. Mr. Harris has a good position with one of the local cotton brokers as a classer and buyer.

THE STATE OF ALABAMA—MADISON COUNTY.

I, the undersigned, W. F. Esslinger, do hereby certify that the following entries of births, deaths and marriages have been taken down by me from the Family Record of William Wright Esslinger, Senior, as shown in his old Bible, left in the possession of Jason C. Esslinger, his youngest son or child, and in the possession of the children of said Jason C. Esslinger, at Gurley, Alabama, since his death, about three years ago.

John Neal was born February 17, 1778.

Elenor Harrison was born January 23, 1787.

Martha Caroline Neel was born October 6, 1821.

William Wright Esslinger was born December 19, 1815

William W. Esslinger and Martha C. Neel were married June 8, 1843. (Marriage Record Book No. 4, page 685, Probate Office Mad. Co., Ala.)

Andrew Jackson Esslinger was born March 25, 1844.

Andrew J. Esslinger and Catherine M. Fennell were married December 27, 1866. (At Fennell Home at Deposit, west of Guntersville, in Marshall Co., Ala.)

James Wesley Esslinger was born January 22, 1850.

James W. Esslinger and Mattie Bowers were married December 30, 1873. (Marriage Record Mad. Co., Ala., No. 7, page 135.)

Elizabeth Susan Esslinger was born December 18, 1851

Robert J. Ellett and Lizzie S. Esslinger were married August 22, 1872. (At age of four years, affiant remembers that wedding, which was at home of Grandfather W. W. Esslinger, and ceremony by Rev. J. T. Bartee, father of Rev. Thomas Bartee.)

Mary Catherine Esslinger was born November 29, 1853

Dr. Angelo Glover and Mary C. Esslinger were married July 12, 1881.

Benjamin Franklin Esslinger was born October 15, 1855.

Ben F. Esslinger and S. T. Haden were married October 23, 1879. (Marriage Record 10, page 377.)

William Wright Esslinger was born August 15, 1857.

Wm. W. Esslinger and Maria Sublett were married January 8, 1880. (Marriage Record 10, page 562.)

Thomas Randle Esslinger was born September 23, 1863

Thomas Randle Esslinger and Nannie Butler were married October 5, 1887. (Marriage Record 15, page 317.)

Jason Campbell Esslinger was born January 7, 1866.

Jason C. Esslinger and Jennie E. Spivey were married June 4, 1890. Jennie E. Esslinger died April 4, 1907. (Vol. 17, page 346.)

(Note: Jason C. Esslinger, widower, was subsequently married to Mrs. Nannie Lou Gardiner (in another state) whose only surviving child and daughter is Mrs. Mamie Glennis Rutland Yates.)

Amy Oline Esslinger was born February 7, 1893.
Flora M. Esslinger was born January 31, 1895.
Myra Melvin Esslinger was born May 31, 1897.
James Campbell Esslinger was born October 27, 1899.
Louise Elizabeth Esslinger was born December 14, 1904
Elenor Harrison Esslinger was born August 26, 1845.
Elenor Harrison Esslinger died December 12, 1853.

DEATH RECORD IN SAID BIBLE

William Wright Esslinger died September 17, 1889.
Martha Caroline Esslinger died January 11, 1893.
Catherine Neel died January 29, 1891. (A maiden sister.)
Mary C. Glover died June 10, 1894.

(The ANNOTATIONS herein are suggestions usually of some confirming records or fact, and are enclosed in parenthesis.)

The foregoing copies of entries in Quotation (") marks have been by me and another carefully checked and compared, and are correct as set down in the said Family Bible of my Grandfather William Wright Esslinger, Senior.

W. F. ESSLINGER.

The foregoing Certificate was sworn to and signed before me on this day, April, 1948, by W. F. Esslinger, who is well known to me; and who states that the foregoing is a true copy of the said Family Record, to the best of his knowledge, information and belief.

Notary Public, Madison County, Alabama.

FAMILY RECORD, ESSLINGER, W. F.

MARRIAGES

William Wright Esslinger and Martha Caroline Neel were married on the 8th day of June, 1843, by H. Poor, Erqr., in Madison County, Alabama.

Andrew J. Esslinger and Catherine Margaret Fennell were married on the 27th day of December, 1866, by Rev. Wm. N. Moore in Marshall County, Alabama.

William Francis Esslinger and Blanche Chandler Russell were married on the 14th day of December, 1899, in Jackson County, Alabama.

Insert other marriages: Andrew J. Esslinger and Margaret Lucinda Hodges were married December 24th, 1885, by Rev. O. L. Sullivan in Madison County, Alabama.

BIRTHS

William Wright Esslinger was born November 19, 1815, in Eastern Tennessee.

Martha Caroline Neel was born October 6, 1821, in Madison County, Alabama.

Andrew Jackson Esslinger was born March 25, 1844, in Madison County, Alabama.

Catherine Margaret Fennell was born December 5, 1842, in Marshall County, Alabama.

Margaret Lucinda Hodges was born October 7, 1851, in Madison County, Alabama.

William Francis Esslinger (Ye Scribe), was born January 9, 1868, at Fort Deposit, Alabama.

James Houston Esslinger was born March 17, 1870, in Madison County, Alabama.

Earnest Alva Esslinger was born April 14, 1872, in Madison County, Alabama.

Andrew Watkins Esslinger was born October 2, 1874, in Madison County, Alabama.

Wade Hampton Esslinger was born February 27, 1877, in Madison County, Alabama.

Arthur Graham Esslinger was born July 21, 1879, in Madison County, Alabama.

Martha Matilda Esslinger was born on March 7, 1882,

in Madison County, Alabama.

Mary Elizabeth Esslinger was born November 11, 1886, in Madison County, Alabama.

Catherine Margaret Esslinger was born January 8, 1889, in Madison County, Alabama.

Julia Josephine Esslinger was born September 28, 1890, in Madison County, Alabama.

Thomas Hodges Esslinger was born November 5, 1891 in Madison County, Alabama.

Sarah Ethel Esslinger was born December 16, 1893 in Madison County, Alabama.

DEATHS

Catherine Margaret Esslinger died October 9, 1884.
Julia J. Esslinger died October 4, 1890.
Sarah Ethel Esslinger died July 7, 1897.
Martha Caroline Esslinger died January 11, 1893.
Wm. Wright Esslinger died September 17, 1889.
Wade H. Esslinger, M.D., died October 7, 1918.
Earnest Alva Esslinger died October 11, 1918.
Andrew Jackson Esslinger died March 12, 1929.
Margaret H. Esslinger died November 6, 1932.
Mary Elizabeth Cobb died December 20, 1932.

The following are children of William Francis Esslinger and Blanche Chandler Russell:

Russell Jackson Esslinger
Nell Daniel Esslinger
William Francis Esslinger
Blanche Esslinger

Russell Jackson Esslinger and Miss Virginia Hangen were married March 23, 1929, in Reading, Pennsylvania. Miriam Esslinger, daughter of above parents, was born on the 28th day of July, 1932. Joan Esslinger, daughter of above parents, was born July 9, 1837, and Kay (F.) Esslinger was born October 28, 1939, in Reading, Pennsylvania.

William Francis Esslinger, Jr., and Anna Mae Linthicum were married September 29, 1932, in Huntsville, Alabama, by Rev. W. G. Henry, Sr. Their children are:

Ann Lynn Esslinger, born September 4, 1935 and Susan Angie Esslinger, born April 16, 1942, in Huntsville, Alabama.

JAMES WESLEY ESSLINGER

James Wesley Esslinger was the second son of W. W. Esslinger and Martha Esslinger. He was a farmer and lumber man. In the year 1873 he married Miss Mattie E. Bowers, whose family had lived in East Tennessee. She and her sister, Mollie, were married at the same time in Madison County, Alabama, after which her father's family emigrated to Arkansas. She was a woman of unlimited industry and management, but found time to carefuly instruct and rear her family of girls. Soon after he married, he bought a nice farm of about three hundred acres on Flint River. Here he reared his family and sent them all to school at Berkley. His eldest daughter, Florence, was graduated from the Winchester Normal School. She became the wife of F. M. Drake and they reared a fine family of boys. Uncle Jim (as he was called) was a tall stout blonde and possessed untiring energy. For years he added the burden of saw mills and trade in logs and lumber to his farming operations. He had some remarkably faithful servants and tenants. Few could do more with logs than the colored bay, John Morgan. At this place I could relate many interesting occurrences among these tenants and helpers, but it would hardy be on the subject of ancestry.

The children of Florence O. and Frazier M. Drake are as follows:

Oldest son: Aubry Drake married Pauline Whitehurst To them a daughter, Sara Jean was born. Pauline died while Sara was quite small, and later Aubrey re-married, and to this union a son, Dan, was born. Aubrey is a traveling salesman in Texas.

Second son: Louis Wesley Drake, a Presbyterian minister in Missouri, married Mary Henry of Kentucky, and their children are Florence and Wesley.

Third son: Leonard Drake, married a Texas girl, and they operated a dry-cleaning plant successfully for a number of years. He was killed in a car accident.

Fourth son: Frazier Drake ,died at the age of 10.

Fifth son: Searcy Drake married Robbie Williamson of Madison County. They moved to Texas and had a family of four girls and one boy, namely; 1, Olivia; 2, Mary Ellen; 3, William; 4, Susan; 5, Jane. They reside in Texas.

Sixth son: Allen Drake married Jewel Barton of Texas, and they have two boys and a girl, Dan, Ray, and Jennie Marie. Allen is an electric welder for the Texas Pacific Railroad.

Besides his first daughter, Florence, J. W. Esslinger had four other daughters and two sons, both of whom died when they were small.

The second daughter of James Wesley Esslinger was Dora, a teacher of Madison County for a number of years, and later dietitian at the Huntsville Hospital. She died in 1932.

The third daughter of J. W. Esslinger and Mattie Bowers was Mamie Ellen. She became the wife of Otho G. Lamberson of Huntsville, Alabama. They had three children: James Gilbert, Willard Neal, and Annie Margaret. Gilbert married Miss Joyce Baggerly of Atlanta, Georgia. Annie Margaret married Willoughby Calhoun DeLany, Atlanta. They have a daughter, Martha Lynn DeLany, born in 1948. Mr. DeLany is a Certified Public Accountant in Atlanta.

The fourth daughter of J. W. Esslinger is Essie Esslinger, a teacher of Huntsville City Schools and Madison County, She received teacher training at the State Teachers 'College of Florence and at Athens College.

His fifth daughter, James Barbara, (Jimmy), married Henry James Garner, formerly of Ozark, Ala., but later of Atlanta, Georgia. They had one son, Henry, Jr. Henry Garner, Jr., married Arlene Mercer of North Carolina, and they have a daughter, Barbara Vivian Garner.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN ESSLINGER

Benjamin Franklin Esslinger was the third son of William Wright Esslinger and Martha Esslinger, and lived all of his married life upon his farm on the Deposit Road between New Hope and Gurley, and in the north part of the Berkley settlement. His wife was Susan T. Esslinger, a daughter of Horatio H. Haden and Tranquilla Jenkins. She, Tranquilla was a grand-daughter of our Revolutionary Veteran ancestor, Robert Wright. They were third cousins, but it is noted in all the history of our immediate family, no person by the name of Esslinger, has been wed by one of the same name, although many have been eligible for such a union.

It was a brother-in-law of my Uncle Ben, William Wright Haden, when a young man, this writer remembers hearing him discuss the relationship of the family to the Bibb family. It was at the time, some excitement in the family prevailed that a very wealthy member of the Bibb descendants, one Nancy Bibb Key, had died without children or close kin, and that the Bibbs and Wrights might become her entire heirs as next of kin. This note is made to confirm the report of the marriage in Amhurst County, Virginia, of Robert Wright, our Revolutionary ancestor, and Keziah Bibb, whose brother, William Bibb, was probably the first governor of Alabama. The conversation was at my grandfather's home, William W. Esslinger, at some period near 1877.

Soon after their marriage they began life as did the their brothers by renting some land and farming. Soon after having accumulated some teams, cattle, etc. he purchased a farm, and here, he raised his family. Their oldest son William Hosmer Esslinger worked for some years in Florence, Alabama. He was married to Miss Eloise McGuire and they now live in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Their son, William Hosmer, Jr., was married to Miss Margaret Lipscomb, and they have three children, Lizzedo, a girl five years old, William Thomas, a son, three years old and John Haden, a son one year old.

A son, Josh Esslinger, was married to Miss Julia How-

ell of Florence, Alabama. Before his death their son, Josh Esslinger, Jr., had chosen for his life's work, that of a doctor. He achieved a degree as M.D. at Tulane University and finished his preparation at Turo Infirmary at New Orleans, Louisiana. They have two sons: John Howell and Josh James, children of tender years. Dr. Josh Esslinger has a fine practice in Beaumont, Texas.

H. Tate Esslinger, a son of B. F. Esslinger and Susan T. Esslinger, formerly lived in El Paso, Texas. His wife was Miss Veta Allison of Huntsville and they are now at home in Huntsville, Alabama. He is a salesman of some ability and his wife is regularly employed in some of the largest stores in Huntsville, being a saleslady of much ability and popularity.

Another son of B. F. Esslinger and his wife Susan T., is O. Marvin Esslinger, who lives on the Deposit Road, four miles south of Gurley. His wife was Miss Bessie Sherrill, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. S. N. Sherrill who now reside in Huntsville, Alabama. They are farmers and have made much progress in the use of improved implements and in the rotation of crops. Their farm is pointed out as a model of improved farming conditions. They have three sons, O. M. Jr., who is now seventeen years of age, in High School and very much interested in football. The second son, Ellis Neal, is also in High School and like his brther O. M. Jr., is a fine young farmer. The youngest son, Sherrill Haden, aged twelve, attends school and is said to be a great help to his mother about the household duties, because she has no daughter.

Mr. B. F. Esslinger and his wife had another son named James Norman Esslinger, who has been teaching for some years, and in South Alabama met his fate and was married to Miss Gladys Stephens. She was also an experienced teacher, in which profession they both excel. They have two children, Mary Jim, a fine bright girl of sixteen years, who is well known as a public speaker and reader. She is graduating from High School. J. Bennie,

about fourteen, is a son of the teachers, who takes great interest in his studies, and in the sports of the school boys of his age. When it comes to farming, these two children prove by their interest that they are worthy descendants, like the boys of their uncle O. M., of the farming family of Esslingers.

Susan T. Esslinger and B. F. Esslinger had one daughter, named Leila May Esslinger. She possessed much energy and enthusiasm and after graduating from State Teachers College at Florence, Alabama, was married to Col. D. Isbell, a prominent and prosperous attorney of Guntersville, Alabama. Leila May died leaving him two daughters, Sue Miller Isbell, who became the wife of Mr. Velpo J. Mabrey, who lives at Spartanburg, South Carolina, where he is in business. They have a daughter, Sarah Jane Mabrey, who is in school and is very attentive to her studies.

Col. Isbell's second daughter was Jane Esslinger Isbell and was reared and educated largely by her father and his sister, as he never married again after losing Leila May, his wife.

Jane Esslinger became a very competent secretary and was of much help to her father in his declining years. She served as secretary to the governor of Alabama until she resigned to get married. She was married at Guntersville, Alabama, early in December, 1947, to Major William H. Frazier, Jr., who had been in the service of the United States. The bride was a graduate of the University of Alabama, where she was very popular. Major Frazier attended Clemson College and served three years overseas. They were located at Falls Church, Virginia, where he was connected with the Johns-Hopkins University as Army Ground Forces liaison officer.

WILLIAM W. ESSLINGER, JR.

The fourth son of William W. Esslinger and Martha Neal Esslinger was William Wright Esslinger, Jr., whose first wife was Mariah Sublett, daughter of Mr. A. Monroe Sublett, of Moon Town, near Little Cove. The date of their marriage is January 5, 1880, but the writer re-

members the great dinner given at his father's home, as an infair, in which his mother, formerly Martha Neal, and his sisters did themselves proud in serving abundance of good things.

William and Mariah lost a daughter in infancy, but had seven sons and one daughter to reach maturity, most of whom, as further pages set out are still living. Their sons were Edgar U., Jacie Lee, Monroe Sublett, Thomas Hamilton, William Neal and Donald Gordon Esslinger. Their daughter, Irene, was married in 1910, and now lives in Huntsville.

After the loss of his first wife by death, William W. Jr., was married to Miss Annie Stallings, of Birmingham, a relative of Congressman Stallings of that part of Alabama. At her death about 1925, she left him one child a son, Clyde Esslinger, herein named.

Subsequently, William W. Jr., was married to Mrs. Bessie B. Clark, who being a widow, moved to Nashville, soon after his death.

A son, Monroe Sublett Esslinger, a doctor of veterinary medicine and his wife Mabel Ivy Esslinger live at Ozark, Alabama. He was a graduate of A.P.I. at Auburn. He rendered valuable service in his line of work to the country in World War I. His oldest son Monroe S. Jr., who has a Bachelor of Science degree from Auburn, Ala., lives as Pascagoula, Mississippi. He married Doris Boakant and he is now engaged as Chief Estimator for Ingall Ship Corporation. He has two children, Monroe S. Esslinger, III, and Margarette Ivy Esslinger.

Dr. Monroe Sublett Esslinger and Mabel Ivy Esslinger have a daughter, Clair Mae, the wife of H. G. Vance of the United States Engineers at Mobile, Alabama. Their daughter, Carmen Anne Vance lives with them.

Edgar Esslinger was the eldest son of W. W. Esslinger, Jr., and Mariah Sublett Esslinger. He was graduated in mechanical and electrical engineering from the A.P.I. at Auburn, and served in this country and France in the airplane division of the army in World War I. He was married to Louise Rodenhauser, after which he lived in

Huntsville until his death, a successful business man. His widow now lives in Huntsville. They have three children, Edgar Esslinger whose wife was Joyce Pedigo of Huntsville, Alabama, and they have two children and live in San Diego, California.

The daughter of Edgar Esslinger and Louise, Mary Jane, lives in Huntsville, Ala., and is the wife of William L. Troupe. He and Mary Jane have a sweet little daughter named Linda Carolyn. Mr. Troupe is a postal employee in Huntsville, Alabama, where both he and his wife are well known for their affable conduct and their friendliness.

Bertha Ann Esslinger is the younger daughter of Edgar and Louise R. Esslinger, is about 13 years of age, attends school, is doing so well and is quite bright, vivacious and popular.

Jacie Lee Esslinger, second son of W. W. Esslinger and Mariah S. Esslinger, was graduated from A.P.I. at Auburn as a master mechanic. He and his brother Edgar were together in their trade in El Paso, Texas. Subsequently, they became interested in the irrigated land north of El Paso in the state of New Mexico, and purchased some land there. After Edgar had sold his interest to his brother, Jacie Lee pursued the farming business of which he has made a great success. His wealth is not now known but he raises one thousand bales of cotton in a year and has extensive herds of cattle, wide fields of alfalfa, and operates at least six tractors making altogether a most successful farmer, following the avocation of his ancestors and the business most loved by all Esslingers.

On December 22, 1913, Jacie Lee was married to Miss Mary Margueritte Willis in Longview, Texas. She was very much admired and loved by all his people who met her upon her trips to Alabama. She is known to be an enthusiastic supporter of her church and advanced ideas of civil education. Her kindness to her father-in-law has been noted. They had two sons, Jacie Lee, Jr., who was married to Miss Patsy Hutchinson, their only child

being a daughter, Barbara Lou, of tender years. William Edward Esslinger, their second son, was married to Miss Willa Dean Morgan on the 5th day of August, 1949. His wife had attended school at Los Crugus, New Mexico, her home being in Fort Worth, Texas.

Both of these young men are prominent farmers at La Mesa, New Mexico. Jacie Lee, Jr., is now the owner of 400 acres of land, and in World War II, served as Staff Sergeant in the Aviation Air Corps overseas in France, Italy and Germany.

William N. Esslinger was a large man like his father, W. W. Esslinger, and after farming during his boyhood in Alabama attended school at A.P.I. at Auburn, Alabama, from which he was graduated. He was employed in the Northwest and moved to Davenport, Iowa. He was chosen chief of traffic police of this city where he served until his retirement in 1948. He now lives in Huntsville, Alabama.

He was married to Miss Margie I. Fairly, in Iowa, and they have one daughter, Miss India Lou who lives with them. Miss India Lou is a graduate of the high school in Davenport, Iowa.

Donald G. Esslinger, the youngest son of W. W. Esslinger and Mariah Esslinger attended school at A.P.I. at Auburn, Alabama, from which he was graduated. For many years he served on the police force as Desk Sergeant in Huntsville, Alabama. He was married to Miss Nannie Lou Chandler of Berkley, Alabama. They have two sons and a daughter now living in Huntsville, Ala. Gordon G. Esslinger was married to Miss Cassandra Thompson who lived in Huntsville, Alabama. They have one daughter, Cassandra Esslinger, now attending the grammar school in Huntsville, their home city.

Gordon G. served four years in World War II, and is now connected with the State Game and Fish Commission, making an active officer for Northern Alabama. Alvin Lynwood Esslinger, the younger son, also served four years through World War II, such service being mainly in the Far East, in the Pacific Division of the U.

S. Army. Receiving his honorable discharge, he returned to Huntsville and was later married to Miss Elizabeth Larue. They live in Huntsville and he now holds a responsible position with the TVA.

A son of William W. Esslinger and Mariah Sublett Esslinger has lived for many years in Texas, being Thomas Hamilton Esslinger. He was married to Miss Merle Culp of Texas. He is a valued employee of Dreyfuss & Son, who makes a specialty of shoes and pedal fittings.

Thomas Hamilton is remembered as quite a good student and was always energetic and fond of athletics. They have three children, William Pierce Esslinger, Mrs. Betsy Turnage and Jack Hamilton Esslinger. William Pierce Esslinger and his wife, Marie Bomar Esslinger, live in Brownwood, Texas. William Pierce holds an important place with the Ne-Hi Bottling Company of that town.

Mrs. Betsy Turnage lives in Fort Smith, Arkansas. Her husband, Mr. J. M. Turnage works for Weldon, Williams & Lick Printing Co. They have a son, Sandy Turnage.

Jack Hamilton Esslinger and his wife, Martha Byrum Esslinger live in Dallas, Texas, where Jack is employed and works with the Times-Herald newspaper, of which he is district manager. They have a little daughter, Janice Merle Esslinger.

Clyde Esslinger, the only son of W. W. Esslinger and Annie Stallings Esslinger is engaged in mechanical work in Detroit ,Michigan. He was married in Texas and was engaged in farming for many years in Madison County, Ala. He has two step-sons and they reside with him in Detroit.

Irene Esslinger was the only surviving daughter of W. W. Esslinger and Mariah Sublett Esslinger, who lost their first born daughter in infancy.

She lives in Huntsville, Alabama, and is prominent in church work and social activities. She was graduated from Woman's College at Montevallo, Alabama. She is rated as a good business woman.

About the 28th day of February, 1915, a sister-in-law of Irene, Mrs. Frank Miller, was very ill, after the birth of her only child, Vernon Alvin Miller. Being convinced that she could never get well, she gave her son, Vernon Alvin Miller, at the tender age of three weeks, to her sister-in-law, Irene Esslinger, who has taken care, taught supported and educated him until he has reached manhood. She is all the mother he has known, and naturally he is crazy about her. Irene also has a foster daughter, Nancy Irene Esslinger, who was the infant daughter of her deceased brother, Donald Esslinger. It has been her delight to make the lives of two foster children happy, and to make them feel that they always had a home with her and they and their friends were welcome and indispensable to her happiness.

THOMAS RANDLE ESSLINGER

Was the fifth son of William W. Esslinger and Martha Neel Esslinger, and he and I attended the same Old Field School at Wright's chapel (later Berkley), east of Flint River in the Cove. Those were my first days in school, so we looked up to the Big Boys, like him, especially when he was always so popular, full of wit, and good humor and pleasant to know. Like his brothers, he was large, was actively engaged in farming, of which he made quite a success.

He was married to Miss Nancy Jane Butler, of Poplar Ridge, who was the eldest daughter of Fred Taylor Butler and Lina Maples, the daughter of a well known and loved Baptist minister, Rev. Peter Maples.

Mr. F. T. Butler was an educated, prosperous merchant and farmer, as well as a promoter of schools and churches. Miss Nannie Butler was graduated from Notre Dame Academy in Chattanooga, Tenn. Their daughter, Mary Esslinger, was married to Mr. John Glenn McGee, of Hartford, Alabama, who was an experienced furniture salesman, and is in business in Huntsville, Alabama. She was graduated from Goodrich's School in Huntsville, Alabama, studied music in the Conservatory of Music of Birmingham, followed by a course in Music at the famous

Conservatory of Music of St. Louis, Mo. She taught music for some twelve years at Bradley School near Huntsville, Ala., in which city she is now giving private lessons in music.

Ida Ruth Esslinger, a daughter, was born in Huntsville, or near that city and after completing the high school course there, attended the State Teachers College at Florence, Alabama, from which she received her B.S. degree. After some early experience at Lincoln School, or others near Huntsville, she was engaged at Rison School, now Rison High School, where her most recent work has been as teacher of young children. Her work in the Primary Department of Rison School has been outstanding. Efforts to secure her services by other schools have failed, as Rison School will accept no substitute. She is well known as one of the best and most effective primary teachers in the County, and by many named the best.

Their youngest daughter, Mattie Lee Esslinger, graduated from Goodrich School in Huntsville, and attended State Teachers College at Florence, Alabama, from which she received her B.S. degree. She was married to Mr. Michael McCartney, of Gadsden, Alabama, whose father was treasurer of Etowah, the county in which he lived.

Mike, her husband, is a valued employee of a large construction company. Their only child, Michael Bailey McCartney, is now 16 and is attending the Baylor Military School in Chattanooga, Tenn.

A daughter of Thomas R. Esslinger and Nannie Butler Esslinger, Vera E. Eslinger, was born in Madison County, Alabama, and attended Butler High School in Huntsville before going away to college. She attended Huntingdon College in Montgomery and Alabama College at Montevallo, followed by further study in home economics in Teachers College of Columbia University, New York, where her husband was doing graduate work. She later taught home economics in the Etowah County High School, Attalla, Alabama, while her husband was

principal there.

Her husband, John Ingle Riddle, is now president of Judson College, at Marion, Alabama, where they have lived in the President's Home since moving there in 1943. Dr. Riddle came from Huntsville, Alabama, where he was graduated from Butler High School and afterward from the University of Alabama, with an A.B. degree. His graduate work was done in Teachers College of Columbia University, New York, from which he holds M.A. and Ph.D. degrees. together with a Superintendent's Diploma. Dr. Riddle for president was a wise selection made by Judson College, that great denominational college of the Baptist Church, as shown by the advancement in all lines and the remarkable success achieved by that College under his energetic leadership and successful administration.

The brother of Mrs. Thomas R. Esslinger, was Professor S. R. Butler, beloved educator of Huntsville, who served twenty-five years as superintendent of the schools of Madison County, Alabama.

The children of Thomas R. and Nannie J. Esslinger, are Fred T. Esslinger of Huntsville, Harry Esslinger of Memphis, Tennesse, Sam Esslinger of Florence, Alabama, Mrs. Mary McGee, wife of Glenn McGee, Ida Ruth Esslinger and Mattie E. Esslinger McCartney, wife of Mike McCartney of Gadsden, Alabama.

Fred Taylor Esslinger was marred to Miss Rhuea E. La Rue, of Tulsa, Oklahoma. He is now manager of the Times Building in Huntsville, Alabama. He and Rheua have two daughters. One is Mrs. Catherine Esslinger Martin, the wife of Marvin Martin, who lives in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, in which city he has regular employment. They have one child who lives with them.

Their second daughter, Rheua La Rue Esslinger Berryhill, is married to Cecil Berryhill of Birmingham, Alabama, where he is city salesman for a large grocery firm. Their little daughter is named Marian Anne.

Sam Esslinger, their son, served on the State Patrol actively for fifteen years. He is now a member of the

State Pardon and Parole Board. His wife, Oline Trissom was a trained nurse, whom he married in Alabama. Their son, Sam, Jr., is now twenty-five years of age and is a law student at the University of Alabama. He was graduated from the State Teachers College at Florence, Alabama. Sam's second son, Thomas Esslinger, is sixteen years of age and has attended the Coffee School and High School of Florence, Alabama.

JASON C. ESSLINGER

The youngest son of William W. Esslinger, Sr., and Martha Neal was Jason C. Esslinger. He was married to Jennie Bett Spivey. Their children were as follows: James C. Esslinger, Louise Esslinger, Melvin Esslinger, Flora Esslinger and Amy O. Esslinger. Amy O. Esslinger was married to John Henry Tabor of Owens Cross Roads. At her death she left him two sons, Ferrell Tabor and John Tabor. Ferrell Tabor was married to Miss Opal Phillips, they have two sons and one daughter, James Reuben Tabor now lives in Sacramento and is a professional baseball player. For several years he was connected with the Boston Red Sox and later with a New York team and later with several western teams. He has had much succeess in his work and is a ball player of some national reputation. His wife is Irene Bryan of Boston. They have two sons, John Tabor, aged five years and Tommy Tabor, aged three years. Ferrell Tabor and Opal Phillips, his wife, have two children, Irene Tabor, seven years old and Marshall Tabor, five years old. Mr. Ferrell Tabor was employed for many years at the Redstone Arsenal. He is now engaged in teaching school and farming near Owens Cross Roads. He lives near his father, (Mr. John Henry Tabor.)

A daughter, Louise Esslinger Flowers, is now engaged in teaching at Gurley. She is the widow of Clarence W. Flowers, an engineer of Scottsboro, Alabama. Mr. Flowers was a prosperous business man, and was originally from Section, Alabama. His early death was quite a blow to all of the family. Mr. and Mrs. Flowers had one son, C. W. Jr., who lives at Gurley, Alabama. His popu-

lar name is "Teddy" and he was born in Decatur, Alabama, April 26, 1932.

His favorite study is electrical engineering, which he pursues in school time at the pleasant age of seventeen years, and being an accomplished athlete, he is employed as a guard at various swimming pools during the summer.

A daughter, Melvin Esslinger, was married to Mr. James W. Bennett of Gurley, who was the son of John W. Bennett and Anna Belle Bennett. Mr. and Mrs. Bennet are now very successful merchants in the town of Gurley, Alabama, where they are both well liked and are active in the civic and religious life of the community.

A daughter, Flora, of Jason C. Esslinger and Jennie Bett Spivey was married to Mr. Eldredge H. Ellett. They now live in Gurley and have an interesting family. One of their sons, Eldredge H. Ellett, Jr., is now in the U. S. Navy and visits many foreign lands. His wife is Lillian Markland Ellett of Fall River, Massachusetts.

Eldredge H. Ellett, Jr., and his wife Lillian Markland have two children, Eldredge H. the third, three years old, in June; James M. Ellett, two years old next July.

The second child of Mr. Ellett and Flora Esslinger Ellett is Sara Ellett Neal, who lives in Gurley, Alabama. She is a business woman and holds a position as secretary in some of the dental offices of Huntsville. She has an interesting little boy, Tommie Neal, three years old, on August 23, 1949, who lives with her and her parents in Gurley, Ala.

Jo Ellett, the fourth child in this family was married to Mr. Walker Maples and they live in Gurley, Alabama. Jo has always been very industrious and helpful to her parents and they are delighted that she and her husband have a home near them in Gurley. It is not often one meets a girl so generally loved and petted as was Jo when single, by her friends and fellow-workers. She always liked outside work, farming, chemical, mechanical and secretarial. She is spoken of as a most successful automobile driver.

A son, Russell Ellett, is a diesel mechanic and lives at Lincoln, Tennessee. He has three children.

A daughter Jennie Ruth Ellett, aged nineteen is engaged in office work or secretarial work in Huntsville, Alabama, having served as cashier and office secretary, at which work she is very efficient, and her services have been in demand. Personally, she is most attractive.

The youngest daughter, about the age of seventeen, is named Alice D. Ellett. She is now in school and will soon be graduated from high school.

A son, Henry C. Ellett, was married to Miss Doris Hoover, of Monrovia, Alabama. They now live in Gurley. They have a little daughter, Margaret, less than a year old.

One son, William Spivey Ellett lives near Fayetteville, Tennessee. His wife was Miss Tommie Mae Sharp of Flintville, Tennessee. They have a daughter, two years old, named Billie Mae Ellett.

James Campbell Esslinger lives in Gurley, Alabama, and was married to Miss Maude Haislip. Their oldest daughter, Jeanette, is a chemist now engaged by the Southern Research Institute in Birmingham, Alabama. James Curtis Esslinger, a son, is an electrical engineer and has been in the navy for four or five years. Glenn Haislip Esslinger, their son, is a teacher in Madison Co. high school and quite interested in both instrumental and vocal music. He is also interested in both baseball and basketball. A daughter, Ellie Ann, aged fourteen is now in school and is admittedly a very fine, lovely, beautiful girl.

After the death of Jennie Bett Spivey Esslinger, her husband Jason C. Esslinger was married to Mrs. Nannie Gardiner of Mississippi and they lived in Gurley where he was magistrate and in business.

Of his second marriage there were two daughters, Jacie Myrtle and Mamie Glennis Esslinger, called Cyndia. Jacie Myrtle died in Gurley when about grown, many years ago. The younger daughter Mamie Glennis was married to Mr. T. Howard Rutland who died soon

after they were married in Madison County, Alabama. She was afterwards married to Mr. Murl C. Yates who is a successful grocery merchant. He and his brother are now associated in a thriving grocery business in Huntsville, Alabama.

ROBERT ESSLINGER

Robert Esslinger was the third son of Elizabeth Wright Esslinger and Andrew Esslinger, and came to Madison County down the Tennessee River with his mother and brothers and sisters, upon a barge, about 1838. January 31, 1842, he was married in Madison County, to Miss Nancy Harless. Among his descendants it is still legendary that he was spoken of as a very homely and bewhiskered man, but that Miss Harless was one of the most beautiful women. After her death, he married again, about the last of 1885, to Miss Nancy C. Jenkins. By his first wife, he had the following sons and daughters: Andrew J. Esslinger, Charles A. Esslinger, George Esslinger, and a daughter, Mary Esslinger. Miss Mary Esslinger lived to quite an old age, but was never married.

Charles A. Esslinger was married in 1875 to Miss Mary E. Matthewson. They had two sons. One son died about maturity, but was never married. The other son was married to Miss Martha Hornbuckle. And they had one daughter, named Willie. After the death of both parents, she was married to a Mr. Albert Spray in Madison County, Alabama. They had one son and one daughter, then both died. Mr. Charles A. Esslinger had no descendants at his death, excepting these two great grandchildren. Their daughter, Beatrice Spray was married in 1947 to Mr. Davis Manning. They now live in Detroit, Michigan. Their son, Gilbert Spray now lives in Madison County, Alabama, is married and has two children and is engaged in the textile business.

Mr. Charles A. Esslinger was married again to Eliza Parks who lived in Huntland, Tennessee, and has occupied their home in Huntsville, Alabama, since the death of Charles A. Esslinger, about ten years ago.

Mr. Robert Esslinger's son, Andrew J., was married to Miss Francis E. Kirksey in 1872. They lived on Flint River near Union, now called Elon, in Madison County, for many years, rearing a large family. Their names were James Albert, Nannie A., Eliza, Mary, Lizzie, Harvey B., and Hughey. Their oldest son, James Albert, was married to Miss Minnie E. Tabor in 1901 and lived all of his life near New Hope, Alabama. Of this union were born seven children, six girls and one son. The daughters are Edith, Era, Inez, Zelma, Kate and Gertrude. The only son, James Albert.

The families of the daughters of James Albert Esslinger and Minnie E. Tabor are as follows:

Mrs. Edith Lorine Quillin, wife of Charles Alfred Quillin, who lives at 416 Park Ave., Norfolk, Virginia, where her husband is in business. They have four children, Margie Roberta Quillin, who is 17 years of age, Charles Ray Quillin, 16 years of age, Clyde Franklin Quillin, 14 years of age, and Harold Edward Quillin, aged two.

James Albert's second daughter is Mrs. Eva Lillian Pritchett, whose husband is Charles L. Pritchett, and their children are Patricia Gale and Jimmy Charles. Her first husband was Robert Lee Self, a farmer who died in 1942. They had two children, Doris Jean Self, and Wanda Ruth Self. In 1943 Doris Jean married Norman Henri Miller, and they have a two year old girl named Norma Jean, the grand-daughter of Mrs. Pritchett. Wanda Ruth Self is 14 years of age and attends school.

The two young children are Patricia Pritchett, 5 years old, and Jimmy Pritchett, two years of age.

The third daughter is Mrs. Inez (Esslinger) Mitchell, the wife of Clifton Mitchell, who live near New Hope, Ala., and are substantial farmers. They have four children, as follows:

Bobby Joe, age sixteen, Cordelia, age ten, and Linda, age seven, with Joyce Mitchell, age five, which constitutes a happy family of four girls.

A fourth daughter, Mrs. Zelma Jones, is the wife of Alva Jones, near New Hope, Ala., and they are prosper-

ous farmers.

James Albert's youngest daughter is Mrs. Kate Lanier, who lives at Owens Cross Roads and is the wife of Sam Lanier, who is engaged in farming.

Another daughter, Mrs. Gertrude Hunter, the wife of B. G. Hunter, is engaged in farming near Hobbs Island, Alabama. About seven years ago he began working for the government at the Huntsville arsenal, and afterwards trading and farming. Mr. and Mrs. Hunter have children as follows: James A. Hunter, who married Louise Christian, lives near Owens Cross Roads, and is with the General Shoe Company in Huntsville. Samuel Hunter and Katie Miller Hunter, his wife, have the following children: Carolyn, age 5, Rodger, age 3, and Sammie, age 1.

Mrs. Gertrude Hunter has a son Leroy Hunter, engaged in farming, and daughters, Margaret Jo, age 17 in school, and Jettie, age 13. A son, Thomas Hunter, who married Jean Masterson, is a salesman in a furniture store in Liberty, Texas. They have a child, Daniel Hunter, age two. A daughter, Ethel Hunter, whose husband is George Webster, and is engaged at Redstone Arsenal, lives at Owens Cross Roads and has two children, Gary Webster, age 4, and Larry Webster, two months old. A daughter, Lorene, married William Maples, who is Sgt. in the United States Army, stationed at Killen, Texas. They have three children, Gertrude Hunter, age 6, Barbara, age 4, and Kay, age 3.

The following children are with their parents at Hobbs Island: M. Ellen Hunter, age 11, in school; Ida Belle Hunter, age 9, in school; and Wayne Hunter, age 8, in school.

The only son was James Albert Esslinger, Jr., who married Miss Annie Baker.

The two younger daughters were well known to me, being my pupils in the first session of school I ever taught, of which Cousin Jack and Cousin Ellen Kirksey were large family patrons. Lizzie was a brunette and Mary was a large blonde. Both were lovable, sweet and obed-

ient like their sisters, Nannie and Eliza. Their names were Lizzie and Mary.

Mary became the wife of W. Gordon Ellett, and passed away early leaving some children to comfort him in his loss. I have heard that he died also. Lizzie went out to Texas with her brother I have heard, and also died some years ago.

GEORGE R. ESSLINGER, JR.

The following show the names of descendants and occupations of the family of George R. Esslinger, Jr., and his wife, Mattie Polk Webster.

One son, Robert Leo, died at the age of 22 years. Charlie D. Esslinger married Ruby Brandon. They have several children. Ruth E. Esslinger became the wife of Dan Johnson. They have one child, Dannie Ruth, and live in Birmingham, Alabama. A daughter, Katherine Esslinger, became the wife of Ted Parker and they have one daughter, Norma Jo Esslinger, who married Bill Rye. They have one son named Jamie Esslinger.

The sons of Ruby Brandon and Charles D. Esslinger are: Charles Esslinger, Jr., aged twenty one, George Esslinger, nineteen and Jerry Esslinger, aged twelve, a daughter, Lillie Esslinger, who married J. D. Smith. Smith and his wife died, leaving their children: Howard Wilson Smith of Califorfnia, Raymond Lee Smith of Miami, Florida, Marie Smith the wife of James Downing, Marvin Smith in the U. S. Air Force, lives in North Carolina. It is he, Marvin Smith, who recently attracted much attention, by saving a comrade whose parachute had not opened properly, and who was caught by Mr. Smith from his descending parachute, so that both came to earth safely.

Lilly's daughter, Mattie Rose Smith, married Bill Glasscock, and lives in Atlanta, Georgia.

Mattie Polk and John Thomas Kelly, her second husband, reside at Madison, Alabama. Jeannette Smith Gill, another daughter, is the wife of Harrison Gill of Dallas, Texas. A son, J. D. Smith, Jr., lives at Harvest,

Alabama. A daughter, Joan Smith, is in school in North Carolina.

MILTON H. ESSLINGER

Another son, Milton H. Esslinger, married Gladys Garner. They have one son, Milton, Jr., in the West. Another son, Bill and his wife Harriet live in Washington and they have two children. A son Donald is in service in Delaware. A daughter, Evelyn, is the wife of Luther Hall and they live in Sheffield, Alabama. They have two children, Mattie and Buddy Hall. Bertie the wife of Bill Moody, lives in Tuscumbia and have two boys, George Moody, Jr., aged thirteen years, and Jack Esslinger Moody.

Robert Esslinger had two or three daughters who were never married. One being Mary Esslinger who lived to a mature age of beyond seventy and died in Madison County, Alabama. Those named were children of Robert Esslinger's first wife. His oldest son was George R. Esslinger.

The second wife of Robert Esslinger was Nancy C. Jenkins. Of this marriage there were born three sons and two daughters.

Calvin, the youngest son, reached the age of maturity and died unmarried. They had two daughters Martha and Leona, who were never married so far as this historian is informed.

They had two other sons who were well known to this historian and were as follows: Raleigh Esslinger who married Miss Hulda White. They had five children, Jesse Esslinger who was married to Miss Callie Webster, Susan Esslinger who became the wife of Ben Hunt, and Mattie Esslinger who married Forest Webster, and Albert Esslinger who married Betty Webster who had two children, one of whom was Ira Webster. The other being Elizabeth Webster. A. Johnson Esslinger who was married to Oleine ————————; and they have four daughters and one son. The daughters are Dessa, Della, Joyce, Junior, and the son is Thomas W. .

A son of Raleigh (Rollie) name Jesse Esslinger, was married to Callie Hymen of Lincoln Village. Another son, A. Johnson Esslinger, whose wife was named Eulah resides in Huntsville, Alabama, where he is engaged in the oil and gas business. His daughter was Belle Esslinger.

Jack Esslinger, a son of Robert Esslinger, was married to Miss Martha Cobb. They had a daughter named Bettie E., who was married to Charlie W. Hunt, and a daughter Ida E. who married Frank Cobb. Shirley C., another daughter, married Mr. L. Webster.

George Esslinger was married in 1871. He was the son of Robert Esslinger and Nancy Harless. His first wife was named Mary Mastastone. He was the faather of George R. Esslinger who mrried Miss Mattie Polk Webster December 11, 1896, who left a large family, as shown in the further history of the family.

The second wife of George Esslinger, son of Robert Esslinger, was Miss Lucy Mullins, who survived him. She lived with her daughter, Bettie Esslinger Wharton, wife of Allen Wharton, in Bakersfield, California.

Jack Esslinger was subsequently married to Elizabeth Cobb. Charles Esslinger married Mollie Mathison. Dave Esslinger married Liddy Hildebrand. They have two girls, Elsie and Doda.

James A. Esslinger married Miss Elsie Tabor. He left six girls and one boy and a widow who was his second wife, a Miss Dora Salmon. James A. Jr., married Miss Clara Kelly. His brother, Hughey, married Miss Emma McKelroy, who with their two girls, live in Texas. Charley Esslinger was married to Miss Dolly Webster and they have one boy and one girl. Nannie Esslinger married Mr. Will Vann. They had two children, Hubert Vann and Marvin Vann. Her second husband was Tom Maddox. They also had two children.

Eliza Esslinger, a sister of Jim and Harvey Esslinger, married a Mr. J. H. Hunt. They had one daughter who married Mr. Grooms, a prosperous farmer who lives near Owens Cross Roads, Alabama.

Left a widow by the death of Mr. Hunt, Mrs. Eliza Hunt was married to Mr. D. M. Vann, February 16, 1904, and they have a home near New Hope, Alabama, close to Bug's Chapel.

THOMAS S. ESSLINGER

The youngest son of Elizabeth Wright and Andrew Esslinger (the Second), was Thomas S. Esslinger, who was born in the State of Tennessee, about 1826, shown by U. S. Census record of 1850, to be 24 years of age.

In the year 1848, he was married to Miss Eliza Ann Scott, who lived in Alabama, where they resided the remainder of their lives. At the death of his wife he had one son, John William Esslinger, and possibly some daughters, whose names are not available. Mrs. Lizzie Scott Esslinger probably died and left Thomas, a widower, and Agnes and Keriar Jane, were possibly his daughters.

On the 12th day of May, 1866, Thomas S. Esslinger was again married. His second wife was Miss Margaret Blasengame, who left him a son, Andrew J. Esslinger (Little Jack), who was given the name for his Grandfather Andrew Second, and "Uncle Jack", Andrew J. Esslinger who married Miss Sarah Hunt, also two daughters, Elle E. who married John D. Barnes and Emma, who became the wife of James W. Craft. They all lived near Gurleysville, as the town of Gurley was then named.

Little Jack Esslinger was married to Eliza Paralee Potts, daughter of Alsey Potts and Calloway Potts, on the 21st day of February, 1881, to them a son, Robert and two daughters, Dewie and Lila were born. Robert died young and unmarried. Dewie became the wife of Ira Wilkinson, of Huntsville, where they still reside and have two fine sons, of whom Leon Wilkinson, aged 32 is the elder, a returned veteran of World War II, and now lives in Santa Cruse, California. Their second son, Vernon Wilkinson, also lives in Santa Cruse, California. His age is 28 and his wife was Miss Peggy Bailey.

The other daughter was married to Mr. G. B. Jarrell, of East Huntsville, who was a skilled carpenter, and until his death lived on Oakwood Avenue, where his widow still lives.

The elder son, John William, was first married to Miss Mary Stewart, of Jackson County, who became the mother of A. D. Esslinger, still living in Madison County, Alabama, and four daughters: Mandy, Belle, Katie, and Rebecca. Mandy became the wife of Sidney Stanton Williams, but died young leaving him two children; all being farmers.

Belle became the wife of John Wright, and died young.

Katie became the wife of William W. Boyd and died young.

Rebecca, the youngest of the first wife, attended the lst school at Chestnut Grove, under O. L. Sullivan, as a little girl which I attended before I began to teach school being about the age of eighteen years, in 1886. She became the wife of Tom Wright and died young. All were farmers.

The son of Mr. John William Esslinger, by his first wife, is A. D. Esslinger, who has quite a large family living, several of whom are married and have families of their own. His first wife was Myrtle K. Miller. He is also a practical farmer.

The eldest son of A. D. Esslinger, is Wm. Odell Esslinger, of Huntsville, Alabama, a radio technician, proprietor of the Esslinger Radio Service Station, devoted to radio repairs and sale of parts.

His wife was Edith Agnes Fuller of Bedford County, Tennessee. Five manly sons and five sweet girls have blessed their home. All ten still survive and are as follows: Frances Edith, wife of John S. Hovis, Jr., who is in the business of cleaning and pressing, at which he succeeds. Their children are Janith Esslinger, aged 5 years and Baby Boy, 6 months old. Clara Elizabeth Keenum, wife of James E. Keenum, who is in the restaurant business and also lives in this their home town.

Helen Esslinger, about seventeen, is now engaged by a family, who employ her as nurse and governess to their only child, while they travel, a place of responsibility. Lucile Esslinger and Lorene Esslinger, aged 12 and 5 years, are still at home, and when Lucile, aged 12 years, can be at home with her, Lorene, aged 5 years, is most happy.

Their son, Lawrence O. Esslinger, is married to Miss Lillian Moon, and having returned from Service overseas, is now a veteran student.

Robert Esslinger, 17, is now in high school, and so is Cecil R. Esslinger 14, and A. D. Esslinger, Jr., 8 years of age, while the little one, Eugene Esslinger, about 6, is just excited about entering school soon.

The second wife of A. D. Esslinger, was Mrs. Mollie Syler, who died leaving him two daughters: Birdie Mae, who became the wife of Wyley Jaco, and later married Mr. Harvey Waller. She has two daughters, Betty Jaco and Dorothy Jaco. Mr. Waller is engaged in business in Huntsville, Textile, with farming and gardening for spare time.

Her daughter Jessie Mae was the wife of Charles J. Minatree, a farmer of the northern part of Madison County but she died in the spring of 1950 leaving him a daughter of tender years named Shirley Fay.

Following the death of his second wife, Andrew D. Esslinger was married to Miss Sue Ella Ivey, who has been a great comfort and help upon the farm, and they have an interesting family. A daughter is Mrs. Ruth Joiner, wife of Wyatt Joiner, a prosperous farmer of New Market vicinity. They have two boys and a girl, one of school age, age of ten years, 2 other children down to 3 years. Another daughter, Mrs. Mamie Brooks, lives at Maysville, Ala., and is the wife of Oda Brooks, a hustling business man and farmer. They have a manly son, Gordon, aged 18, and a lovely girl in school, Eloise.

James Walter Esslinger and T. W. Esslinger, two sons aged 18 and 14 years, live at home with Andrew D. Ess-

linger and his wife, being always ready to do a good part in the many duties coming to farmers, truckers and cattle raisers.

The announcement of the death of Mrs. Jessie Esslinger Minatree in March, 1950, stated in part:

"Mrs. Minatree is survived by her husband, Charles Minatree, one daughter Shirley Faye; her parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Esslinger, six brothers: Earl, A. D. Jr., James Walton, T. W. and Odell, all of near Huntsville; three sisters: Mrs. Ruth Joiner, New Market, Mrs. Mamie Brooks of Maysville, and Mrs. Birdie Waller of Huntsville; her grandmothers, Mrs. Mollie Esslinger and Mrs. Birdie Ivey, both of Huntsville; and several aunts and uncles."

Among the marriages reported in the social column for the year 1948, was the following:

"Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Esslinger, 101 Rison Street, Huntsville , announce the marriage of their daughter, Ruth Esslinger, to Rev. Richard P. Crowson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Crowson of Maysville, Sunday, August 1.

The bride is a graduate of Lincoln High School and is now a junior at Florence State Teachers' College. He served 39 months in the U .S. Army."

In 1949, Rev. Crowson was assigned to pastoral work by his Church in Jackson County, Ala., while Mrs. Ruth E. Crowson, his wife, secured a desirable class in West Huntsville High School.

John W. Esslinger was the son of Thomas S. Esslinger and Eliza Ann Scott. His second wife was Mrs. Mary B. Woody of Gurley, Alabama. They have several children, one of whom is William B. Esslinger, engaged in the textile business, and living in Lincoln Village, near Huntsville, Alabama. His wife's name was Frances Jane Cagle of New Market, Alabama. She has been a very successful housewife, mother, and trainer to three fine children. One is Ruth Esslinger Crowson, who is about twenty-one years of age and is a graduate of the Normal school at Florence, and is a very successful teacher. In

1948 she was married to Rev. Richard Paul Crowson, a Methodist minister, and an account of their wedding is elsewhere in this list. A son, William Ezell, is about 24 years of age, an expert printer, and a young Methodist preacher. Their youngest daughter Juanita Ophelia, is now a very popular school girl, at Lincoln school, Huntsville, Alabama.

John W. and Mary B. (Mollie) Esslinger, also had a son Alvie E. Esslinger, whose wife was Miss Cordia Petty, born at Stevenson, Alabama, but later living in Tennessee. Alvie and wife live at Farley in Madison County where he conducts a successful business, being ably assisted in business by their only son, Charles Esslinger, about 22 year of age.

Another son of above named parents is Odie Lee Esslinger, a skilled Motor Mechanic, employed in his trade in East Huntsville, at present; but never without a job, is still unmarried.

John W. and Mollie, his wife, have the following four daughters living in and around the City of Huntsville:

Mrs. Margaret McGaha, wife of Mr. Hanson McGaha, who is a skilled Factory man, and foreman of one of the large Mills of the City.

Mrs. Annie Brooks who was married to Tom Brooks, and is an experienced textile operator, whose work is much in demand.

Miss Katie Esslinger, residing at present with her mother Mrs. Mollie (Mary Woody) Esslinger in East Huntsville.

Mrs. Lizzie Sanders, wife of Lannis Sanders, married in 1917, he being an expert jeweler, watch-maker and repairer, of much experience and succeeding in his calling. They live in Huntsville and have one son, Elbert Sanders. Elbert Sanders was married to Miss Evelyn Johnffson. They have four children: Darline, aged 7, in school; Dorothy Ann, about 5 years of age, and the twins darlings both, named Linda Fay and Linda Kay, 2 years old. It is to be regretted that Elbert, their father is

now in home for disabled veterans, after serving through World War II.

CONCLUSION

At the close of this List of Esslingers, I make a brief summary of the callings listed in part:

First, there are many, many farmers, which was the calling of nearly all the elder men descended from Mother Elizabeth Wright Esslinger, whose descendants we try to record here.

The Doctors have been Levi Pickett Esslinger, Wade Hampton Esslinger, Dr. Josh Esslinger, Dr. William Richardson, still in practice, and a home doctor, unofficial, but effective, Mrs. Catherine M. Fennell Esslinger. Of her, we may say in lines of another:

"She sowed Sympathy and reaped friendship,
She planted kindness and gathered love."

Arthur G. Esslinger, deceased, of Fairfield; Russell J. Esslinger, of Reading, Pa., and William Francis Esslinger of Miami Beach, Fla., were our three greatest lawyers, all three of whom were graduated from the University of Alabama, with a degree of Ll.B. but your historian, has been in the active practice of law in Huntsville since the first day of January, 1897, 53 years, and claims to be the oldest member of the local bar in active practice.

Louis Wesley Drake is a Presbyterian minister, in the State of Missouri.

The local preachers are A. W. Esslinger, of Cameron, Texas, and Ezell Esslinger, of Lincoln, and Huntsville, both Methodist, and Rev. William A. Esslinger, of Huntsville Park, a Baptist minister.

Many of those named have entered into the manufacturing business, while some have made good as electrical and radio experts.

And, last I toss a boquet to all the girls and boys who have entered into the various schools of this and other counties, as teachers; but, also, again commend the brave farmers who knew best and sent them to school, even to

college, so they could prepare for the work, and advance themselves.

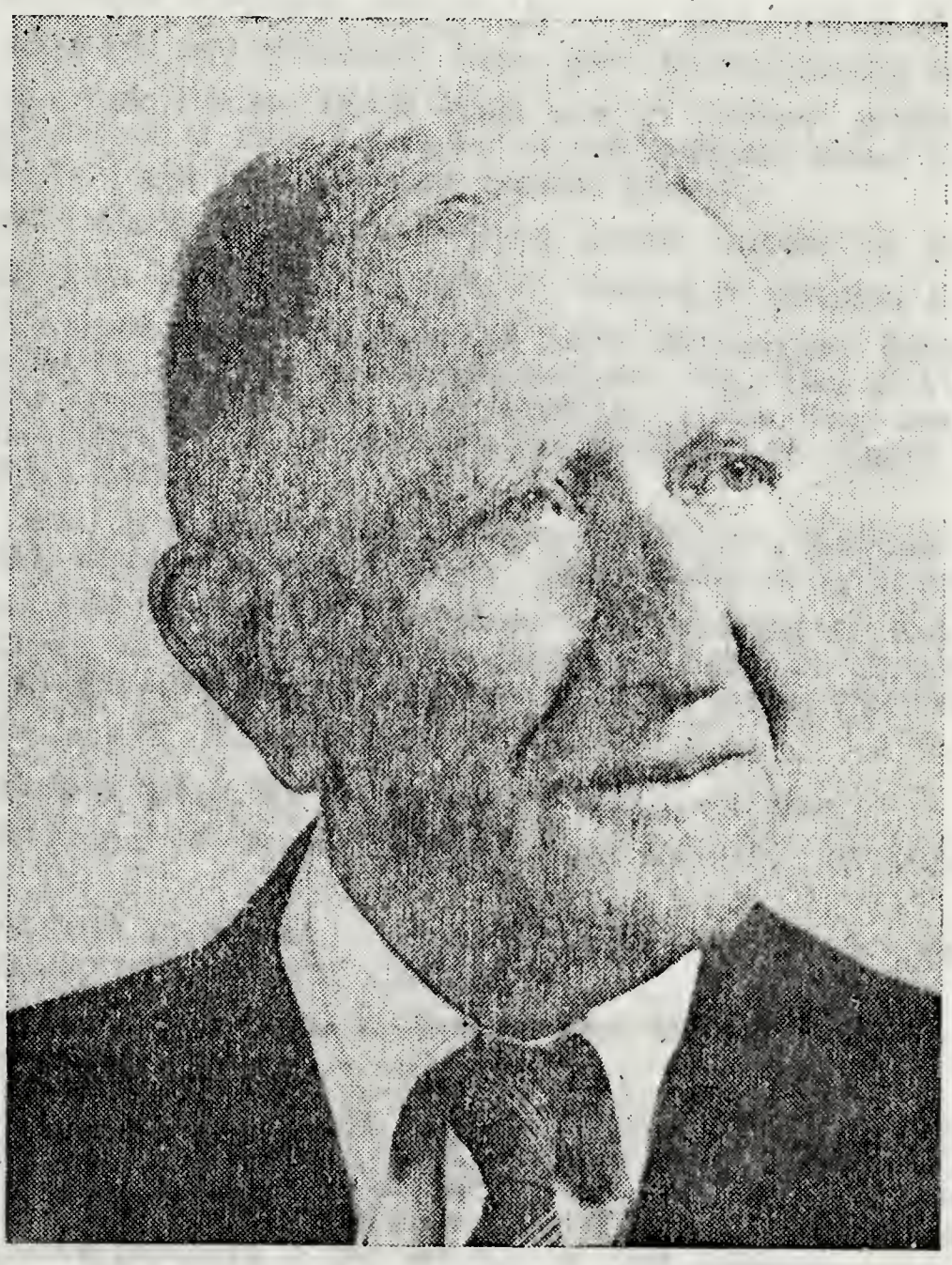
Should any of my readers suggest, that I have been too extravagant in my praise of our farming people and ancestors, let me say it is a matter of Taste. The old expression **"De gustibus non est dispudandum"** means there is no disputing about taste, so I claim the right, and express my real feelings, hoping it may not offend you.

Your National Heritage is the Blood of the English Puritan, of the optimistic French Cavalier, the acumen and caution of the Scotch, the witty and impulsive Irish, and the sturdy, efficient German, to constitute noble citizens of America.

And, now, on the 1st day of May, 1950, at the age of 82, I say to you all not Fare Well, but Good Luck; and may all of you make the future, your future and achievments worthy of our pioneed ancestors.

W. F. Esslinger

W. F. ESSLINGER,
(Cousin Frank)
Family Historian.



W. F. ESSLINGER

At age of 82

ERRATA ET ADDENDA

Page 16—A. J. Esslinger, 46 years old rather than 34.

Page 22—Sevcnth line, 1837 instead of 1937 is year of sale.

Page 38—Aileen instead of Eileen Sherrill. (Also Page 79).

Page 39—Irene Esslinger married May 31, 1914 instead of 1910.

Page 46—Fifth and thirteenth lines, Sara Bache instead of Sarah J.

Page 46—Add: Horace David Wall, now at Auburn, graduated from high school in 1950, a member of the National Honor Society. He also received the American Legion Award.

Page 47—(Middle of page). William Irvine instead of Erwin.

Page 51—Last paragraph, Cynthia G. instead of Synthia C.

Page 51—Add: Ruby, daughter of John Washington Esslinger and Ela Clark, married Mr. James Collett. They live at 314 Bradley Ave., Huntsville, with their children Joyce Fay, Jerry, Edith Kay, Tommy Jay, Leroy Eugene, Margaret Ann, Nancy May, and Harold Ray.

Wm. J. Esslinger ,son of John Washington Esslinger and Ela Clark, married Gladys Parnell. Their home is on Triana Pike.

Page 76—Add: Ann Martin Esslinger was married to Roy Jackson Cochran of Montgomery, on June 10th, 1950, at Christ's church (Episcopal.) The writer had the honor of giving the bride away.

Page 78—Jack T. Berry instead of John T. Berry.

Page 79—Billy Rhea Harris instead of William Harris.

Page 82—Arthur Graham Esslinger born January 21 instead of July 21.

Page 90—First paragraph. Edgar Esslinger and Joyce Pedigo Esslinger do not have any children.

Page 90—Add: Mrs. Wm. L. Troupe has another daughter, Jane Elizabeth.

Page 95—Add: Harry Wright Esslinger graduated with a B.S. degree from Auburn. Received an M.S. degree later. He taught in Memphis Tech. High school 27 years. His wife is Leila Jenkins of Auburn, Ala., daughter of James and Estelle Jenkins, whose ancestors were pioneers in the settling of East Alabama.

Page 96—(Line 1.) Olean Grissom instead of Oline Trissom.

W. F. Esslinger